THERE'S AN ADULT
WHEN I TAKE A QUICK LOOK

IN THE MIRROR.
CHAPTER 16

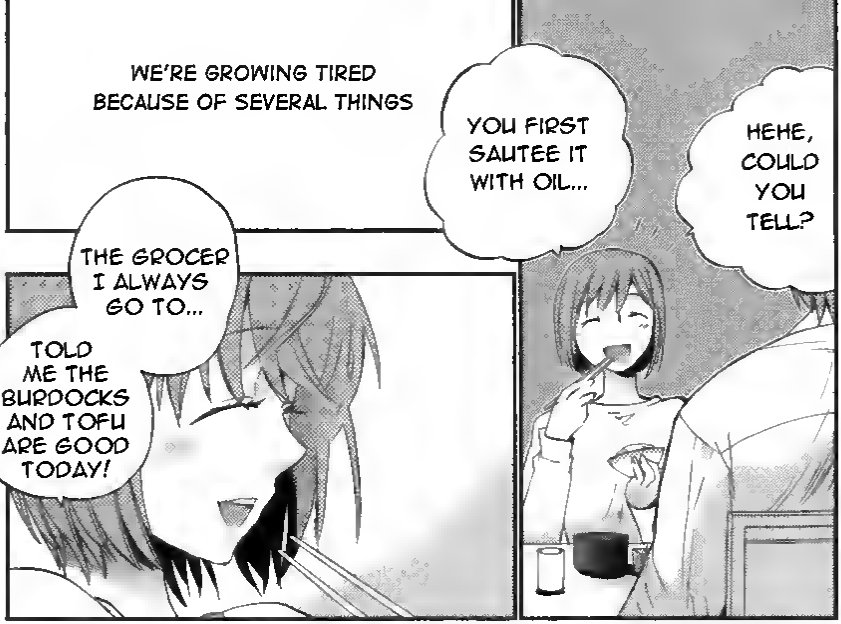
GOOD MORNING!
IT'S COLD TODAY
GOOD MORNING.
I HAVE TO TRY MY BEST.
I'M TRYING MY BEST.

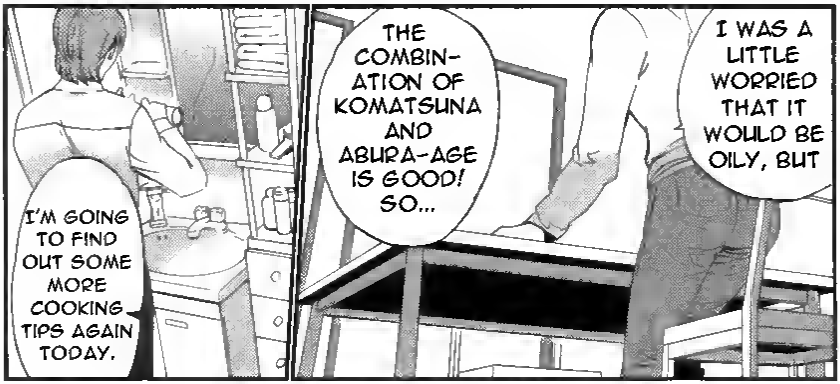
THOSE THINGS, THAT ARE FAR AWAY.
AND IT ALMOST SEEMS LIKE I CAN REACH IT...
BUT I CAN'T...
WHAT SHOULD I PUT IN THE MISO-SOUP TODAY...
...I HAVE TO BECOME AN ADULT.
AND BECOME AS OLD AS I LOOK

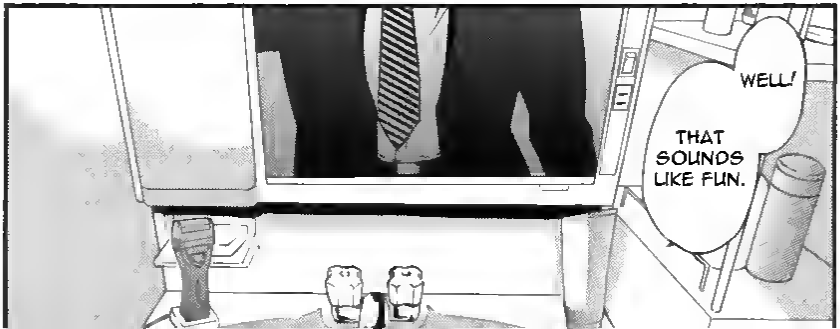
UH...
.. SORRY ...
YOU CAN STILL STAY IN BED FOR A LITTLE LONGER, HIRO-NII!
YOU WENT TO SLEEP PRETTY LATE LAST NIGHT
SO YOU SHOULD SLEEP A LITTLE MORE.
I'LL LET YOU KNOW
WHEN BREAKFAST IS READY!

IT'S BEEN A MONTH SINCE KARADA AND I LEFT THAT TOWN
IT'S THE SECOND TIME KARADA AND I HAVE MOVED...

THIS MISO-SOUP IS DIFFERENT THAN THE USUAL...
MM...

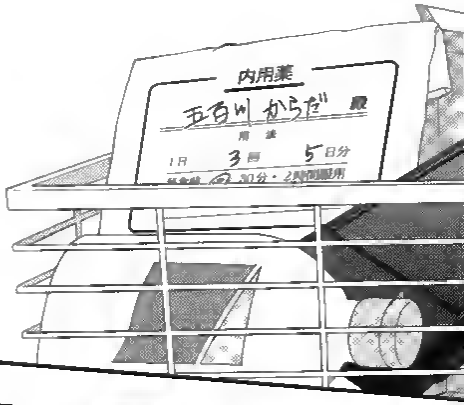

WE'RE GROWING TIRED BECAUSE OF SEVERAL THINGS
YOU FIRST SAUTEE IT WITH OIL...
HEHE, COULD YOU TELL?
THE GROCER I ALWAYS GO TO...
TOLD ME THE BURDOCKS AND TOFU ARE GOOD TODAY!

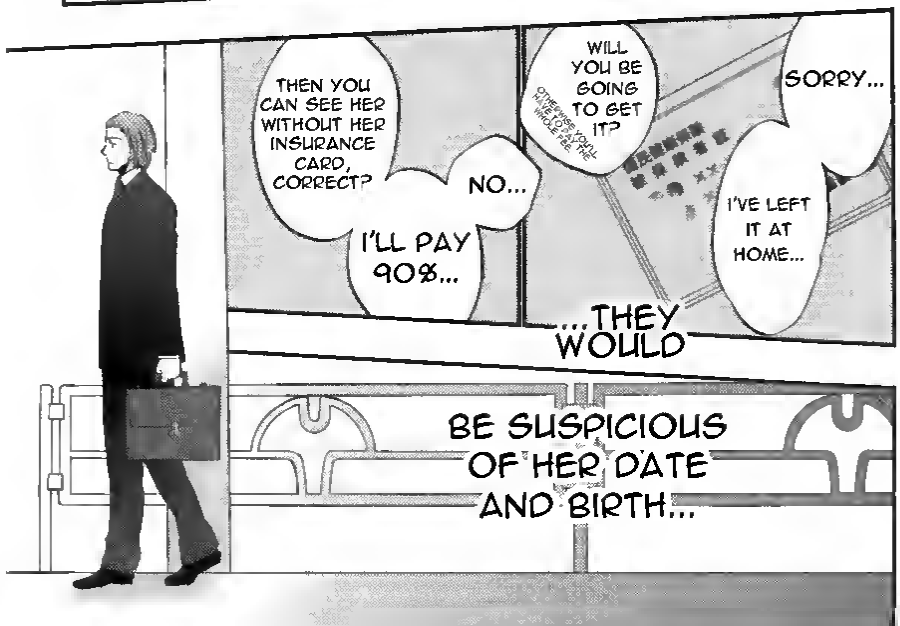

I'M GOING TO FIND OUT SOME MORE COOKING TIPS AGAIN TODAY.
THE COMBIN-ATION OF KOMATSUNA AND ABURA-AGE IS GOOD! SO...
I WAS A LITTLE WORRIED THAT IT WOULD BE OILY, BUT


WELL!
THAT SOUNDS LIKE FUN.

I'LL BE GOING NOW!
KAY!
HAVE A NICE DAY!
RIGHT WHEN WE MOVED...

KARADA CAUGHT A COLD.




THEN YOU CAN SEE HER WITHOUT HER INSURANCE CARD, CORRECT?
NO...
I'LL PAY 90%...
WILL YOU BE GOING TO GET IT?
OTHERWISE YOU HAVE TO PAY THE WHOLE FEE.
SORRY...
I'VE LEFT IT AT HOME...
...THEY WOULD
BE SUSPICIOUS OF HER DATE AND BIRTH...

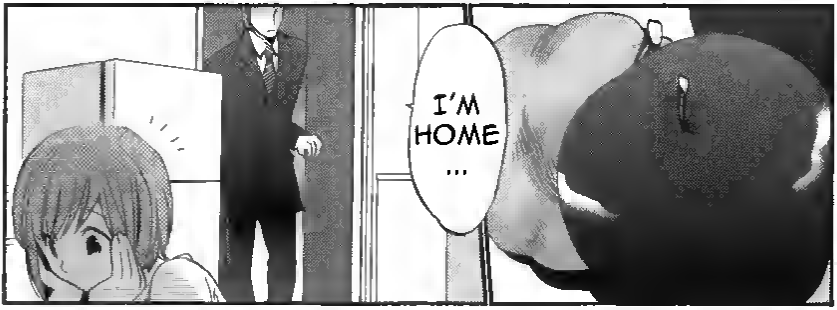
SHE CAN'T...GO TO SCHOOL ANYMORE
IN A FEW YEARS, WILL SHE BE ABLE TO PASS IT OFF?
NO ONE WOULD BELIEVE ANY EXPLANATION.
...I HAVE TO THINK ABOUT THE FUTURE...
YOU USED TO WORK IN A RESEARCH LAB?
SO WHY ARE YOU LOOKING INTO A JOB HERE? IT'S A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FIELD.
.....
I HEARD YOUR EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS AND YOUR COMPANY IS WELL-DEVELOPED!
...I HAVE A FAMILY I NEED TO SUPPORT.

THERE'S NO GUARANTEE THAT SHE'LL RETURN TO HER NORMAL STATE.
SO PLEASE CONSIDER ME FOR THE POSITION.
I WILL WORK MY HARDEST!
SO WHAT I'M DOING
IS THE BEST DIRECTION WE CAN GO IN, BASED ON WHAT I CAN DO.
I FINISHED CLEANING AND LAUN-DRY ...
AND PUT-TING UP THE OFU-TON
LO

...WISH I COULD DO SOMETHING.
I TOO ...
WHAT ELSE IS THERE TO DO...
WHAT SHOULD I MAKE FOR DINNER...

WOW!
YOU'RE SO BUSY TODAY!
OH!
IT'S YOU!
OUR PRODUCT APPARENTLY WAS ON TV...
AND THE STORE SUDDENLY GOT SO BUSY!
THERE ARE SO MANY PEOPLE I'M TOO SCARED TO REFILL THE STOCK IN THE STORE!
MY WIFE IS AWAY ON VACATION AT SUCH A BAD TIMING!
MY SON IS AT "WORK"...
BUT HE SHOULD HELP HIS FAMILY BUSINESS!!
YES, YES
HURRY UP!
I'M COMING!
UM...

WOULD IT BE OKAY IF I HELPED?
THANKS FOR HELP-ING!
WAS I OF USE?
AND...
IF YOU'RE FREE TOMORROW, CAN YOU HELP ME FOR A COUPLE OF HOURS AGAIN?
OF COURSE!
SORRY IT'S NOT IN CASH
BUT THIS IS FOR YOUR HELP...


I'M HOME ...

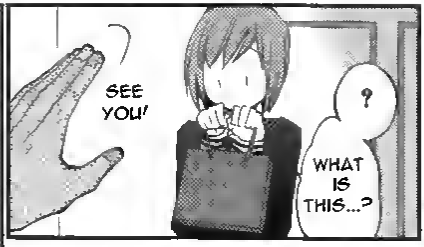
HIRO-NII! WELCOME HOME!
SO TODAY...

UM...
...THE NICE GROCER TOLD ME MORE ABOUT
MAKING LUNCHES THAT ARE OKAY EATEN COLD...
SORRY
I'M JUST WIPED OUT
COULD YOU TELL ME TOMOR-ROW...?
SO I THOUGHT I'D MAKE YOU LUNCH LIKE I USED TO...
TOMOR-ROW...
I HAVE TO... LEAVE EARLY.....

GOOD NIGHT
THIS IS IO-KAWA ...
YES, I'VE FINISHED GOING AROUND...
I HAVE AN HOUR UNTIL THE NEXT ROUND BUT I'LL RETURN-
OKAY, THEN I WILL CONTINUE-
PHEW...

I CAN'T TAKE A BREAK LIKE I DID BACK AT THE LAB...
I CAN ONLY EAT LUNCH WHEN I HAVE TIME TO AND IT'S ON THE GO...
HEY!

HIRO-NII!?
WHAT HAPPENED!? IT'S STILL NOON...
DID YOU FORGET SOMETHING?
HERE!


SEE YOU!
?
WHAT IS THIS...?

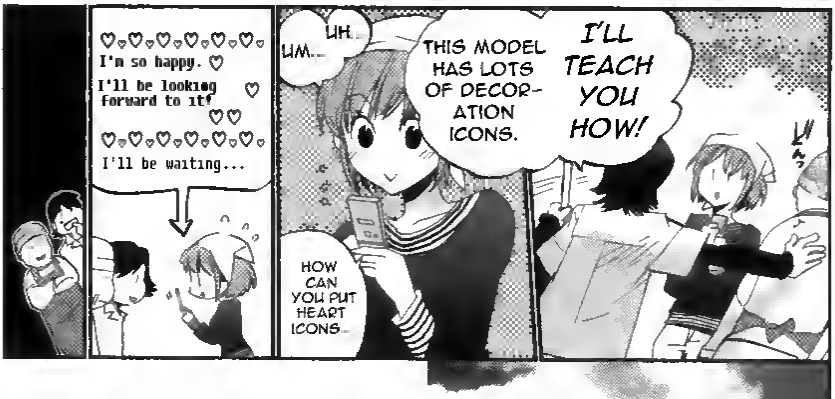
THE INSTRU-CTION BOOKLET IS IN THE BAG!

?

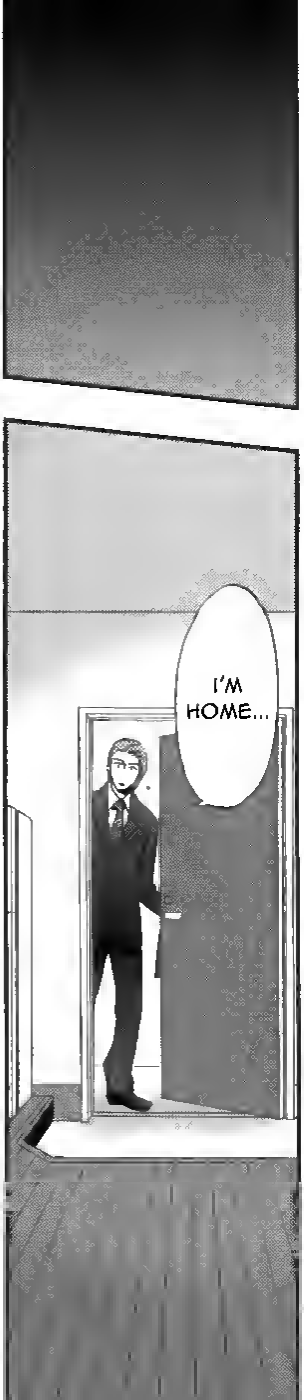
SORRY, YOU CAME BACK TO HELP AND ALL...
DON'T WORRY!
...LOOKS LIKE THE SUPERMARKET STOCKED UP ON THEIR PRODUCTS...
ガラ

This is Hiro. It's our first mail.
It looks like I can come home early today.
I HAVE A LOT OF TIME...
AH?
MAIL? GO AHEAD, CHECK IT.

OH? YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TO USE PICTURE ICONS?
Let's go eat dinner somewhere. I will mail you later.


♡♡♡♡♡♡♡♡♡
I'm so happy. ♡
I'll be looking forward to it♡
♡♡
♡♡♡♡♡♡♡♡♡
I'll be waiting...
UH...
UM...
THIS MODEL HAS LOTS OF DECOR-ATION ICONS.
I'LL TEACH YOU HOW!
HOW CAN YOU PUT HEART ICONS...

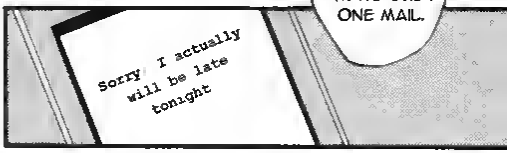
IOKAWA -KUN...

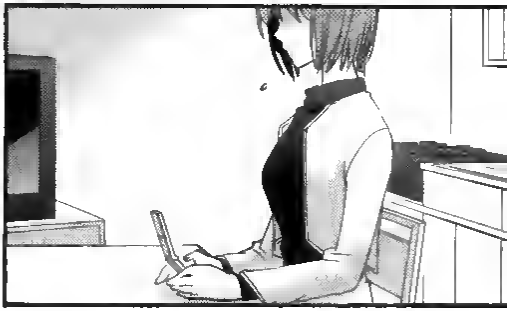

I'M HOME...

YES?
WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A MEETING WITH HAMANAKA BUILDING CONTRACTORS.

COME ALONG ...

THIS IS PART OF YOUR JOB TOO.
I UNDER-STAND... PLEASE LET ME WRITE JUST ONE MAIL.

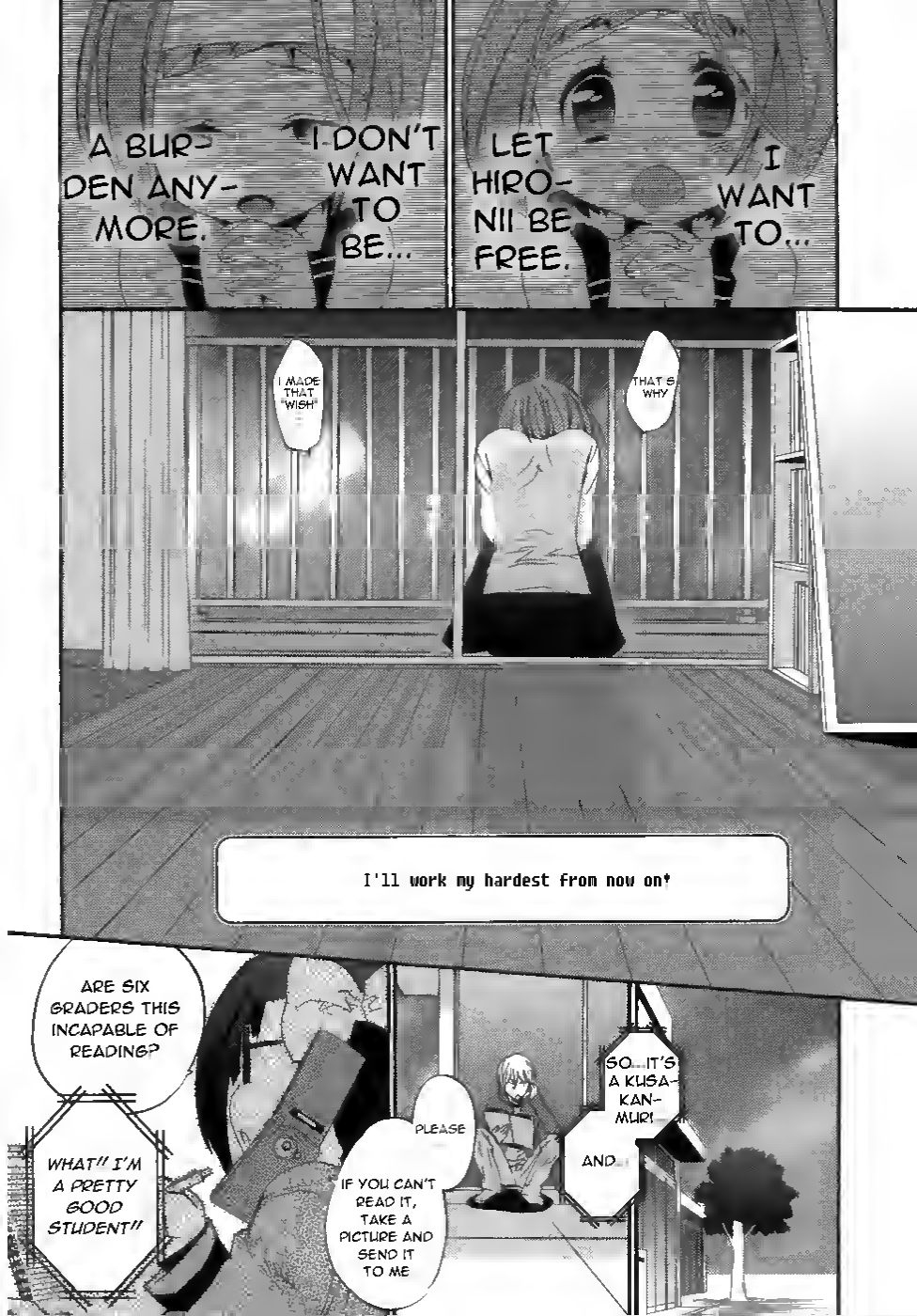

Sorry I actually will be late tonight



I'm sorry about today.
I WONDER IF I PEEK OF ALCOHOL
DID SHE GO TO SLEEP?
Welcome home.
I was waiting for you.
I'M REALLY SORRY...
.....
BUT MY JOB...
BUT THAT'S AN EXCUSE...
I DID INDEED BREAK OUR PROMISE

I know!
It's your job...
But! Next time, it's a promise.
YES...
IT'S A PROM-ISE.
Good night.
GOOD NIGHT.
MAIL ...
IS SO CONVE-NIENT.

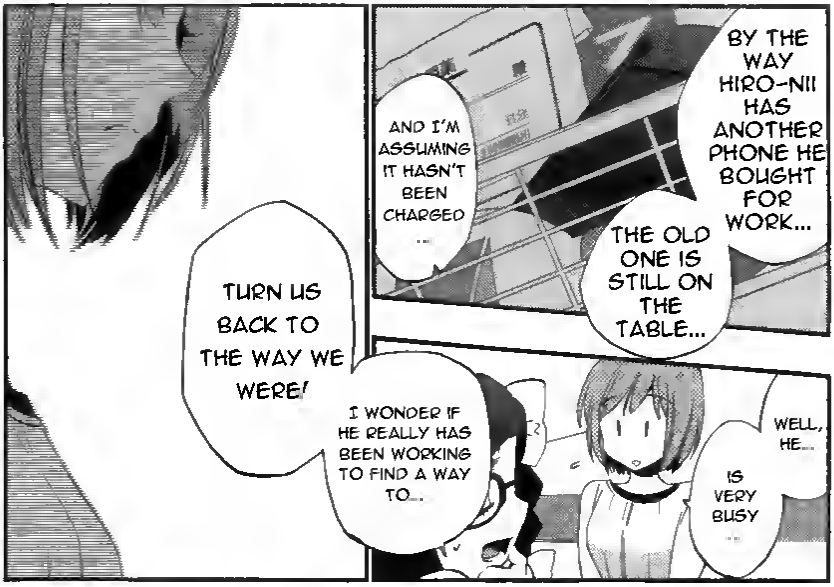
I have good news!
Thanks to your help, Karada-san...
I have become a full-time employee!
I won't be able to get time off too easily anymore...
BUT I'LL WORK MY BEST SO THAT WE CAN LIVE TOGETHER FROM NOW ON.


A BUR-
DEN ANY-
MORE.
I DON'T
WANT
TO
BE...
LET
HIRO-
NII BE
FREE.
I
WANT
TO...
I MADE
THAT
"WISH"
THAT S
WHY
I'll work my hardest from now on!
ARE SIX
GRADERS THIS
INCAPABLE OF
READING?
WHAT!! I'M
A PRETTY
GOOD
STUDENT!!
PLEASE
IF YOU CAN'T
READ IT,
TAKE A
PICTURE AND
SEND IT
TO ME
SO...IT'S
A KUSA-
KAN-
MURI
AND...

YES,
HELLO?
PLUS IT TOOK A LOT OF EFFORT TO GET PERMISSION TO TAKE THIS BOOK OUT!
HELLO...
IS THIS SHOUKO-SAN?
PI
YES, YES, YOU'RE GREAT, AMANO--
OH, SORRY, I HAVE ANOTHER CALL
!
KARADA-CHAN!?

WHERE ARE YOU?
I HEARD YOU MOVED...
THIS IS...

SHOUKO -SAN! OVER HERE!
LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE DOING WELL.
YOU TOO...
COFFEE PLEASE
I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT WE WOULD HAVE DONE IF YOU HADN'T CONTACTED ME.
I THOUGHT THE SAME THING!
HIRO-NII AND I THOUGHT WE SHOULD WAIT UNTIL WE SETTLED IN A LITTLE BIT MORE...
BUT WE HAVEN'T FOUND ANYTHING...
OH THIS ONE
OKAY


BY THE WAY HIRO-NII HAS ANOTHER PHONE HE BOUGHT FOR WORK...
AND I'M ASSUMING IT HASN'T BEEN CHARGED ...
THE OLD ONE IS STILL ON THE TABLE...
TURN US BACK TO THE WAY WE WERE!
I WONDER IF HE REALLY HAS BEEN WORKING TO FIND A WAY TO...
WELL, HE... IS VERY BUSY ...

OH KARADA-CHAN! LOOK, LOOK!
I STUDIED AS MUCH AS I COULD ABOUT THE 'STONE'
AND I THINK I'VE UNCOVERED SOME USEFUL INFO!
THAT KID AMANO-KUN
WE EXCHANGE INFO, SOME-TIMES.
HE'S BEEN HELPING.

...SO YOU DIDN'T TELL HIM YOUR NEW ADDRESS?
HE'S WORRIED ABOUT YOU, A LOT...
I ASKED HIM IF HE WANTED TO COME ALONG
BUT HE SAID "IT'S OKAY AS LONG AS SHE'S HAPPY".
HE SAID TO TELL YOU "WE'RE GOING TO FIND THE STONE AND TURN US BACK".
OH... REALLY...
SO...
LET ME HEAR ABOUT YOU THESE DAYS!
I BET IT'S BEEN TOUGH.
OH... WELL...

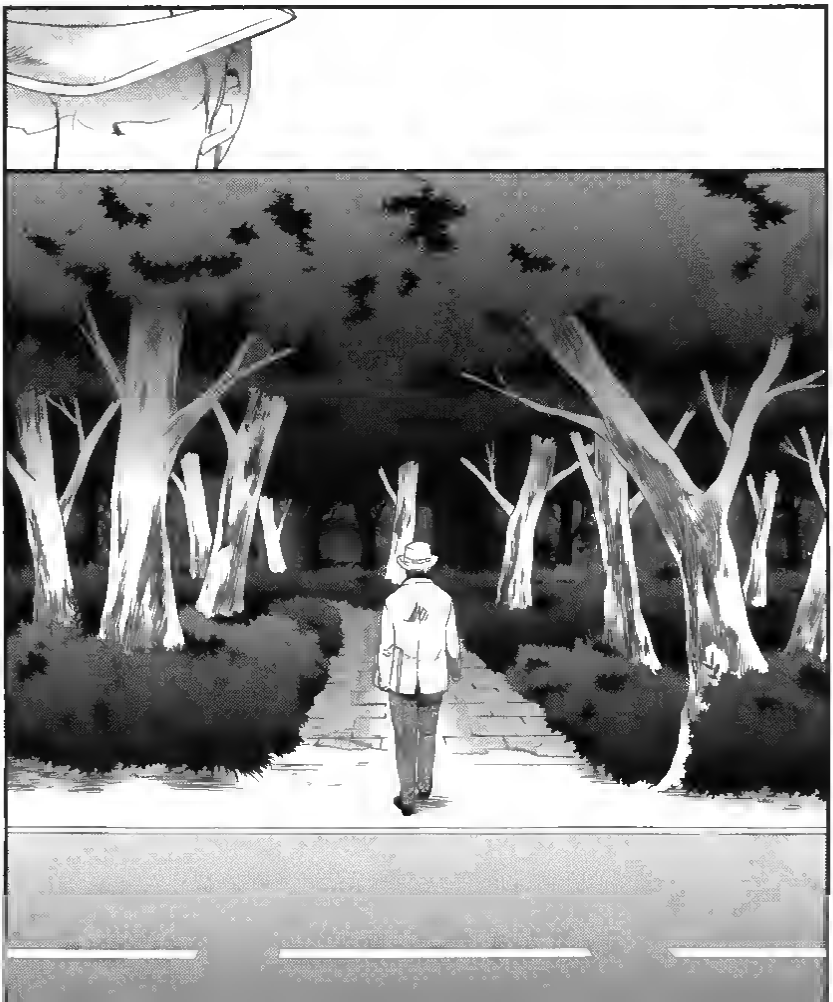
THERE'S A LOT OF THINGS I WANT TO TELL YOU ABOUT... BUT...
THEY'RE ALL SUCH SMALL THINGS
AND ...
THEY'RE NOTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY...
LIKE I'D DO THE SAME THING AS SOMEONE BECAUSE IT'S WHAT ADULTS DO...
IT'S BASIC-ALLY STUFF LIKE THAT...
OR LAUGH...
LIKE NOTHING IS THE MATTER ...
IS "NOT COMP-LAINING" AND "BEING STOIC" REALLY THE KEY TO BECOMING AN ADULT?
BUT...

WHEN KIDS HOLD BACK ON SAYING WHAT THEY'RE THINKING IT PILES UP.
AND THEY WANT TO LET IT GO BUT WHILE THEY LOOK FOR WAYS TO MAKE IT GO AWAY, IT ALL COMES OUT
YOU DON'T HAVE TO RUSH INTO BECOMING AN ADULT BECAUSE YOUR APPEARANCE IS THAT WAY.
YOU'RE ALLOWED TO TAKE YOUR TIME.

LET'S NOT GIVE UP AND KEEP SEARCH-ING
AND
...LET'S GET OUR LOST "TIME" BACK.
I'VE FOUND KARADA-CHAN
SHE SEEMS WELL.
OKAY!
SO NOW...

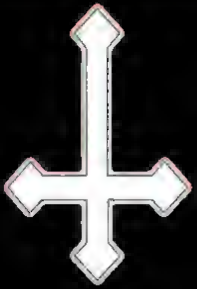
I HAVE TO FIND THE "WISHING STONE"!!!
HM...
DID SOME-ONE COME BY?
OH, YES...
IT'S A PACKAGE FOR YOUR FATHER.

HM...



ARIENAI!
TLER: SHIROKURO
EDITING: NIHIL SINE NEFAS
RAWS: MAGRANA

JOIN US ON IRC AT #ARIENAI! ON IRCHIGHWAY.
OR, VISIT OUR NEW SITE AT
WWW.3WD-ONLINE.COM/ARIENAI



THIS CHAPTER
CLEANED & TYPESET BY:

nihil sine nefas
NOTHING WITHOUT SIN
nihilsinenefas.wordpress.com

LET'S NOT GIVE UP! KEEP SEARCH-ING,
WE FOUND IOKA-WA...!
ALL THAT'S LEFT IS THE STONE !!
AND WE'LL RETURN TO NORMAL !!
I HAVE TO DO SOME-THING...
THE PAST IS FIXED, SO IT CANNOT BE ERASED.
ALTHOUGH THE FUTURE IS FULL OF POSSIBILITIES, IT'S DIFFICULT TO DO AS WE LIKE... BUT...
I'M STILL ...
JUST A USE-LESS CHILD ...
THE WISHING STONE IS JUST A FAIRY TALE ...

CHAPTER 17

あさって方向。

a direction of the day after tomorrow

WELCOME HOME, HIRO-NII!
I'M HOME ...
YOU'RE ALWAYS THIS LATE EVERY NIGHT?
click

SHOUKO ...!
IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU.
I COULDN'T FIND WORK SIMILAR TO MY OLD JOB...
THAT'S A BIT SHOCK-ING...
YOU'RE DOING REAL ESTATE RELATED WORK?

IF YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT ME, YOU SHOULD CHARGE THE BATTERY!
WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING LATELY?
SHOUKO.
I WAS GOING TO... AFTER WE... SETTLED DOWN A BIT..
WHAT WERE YOU GOING TO DO IF KARADA-CHAN DIDN'T CONTACT ME?
AFTER YOU SETTLE DOWN.
IS THAT "SETTLE DOWN" ...
THE KIND THAT'S SIMILAR TO "GIVING UP"?

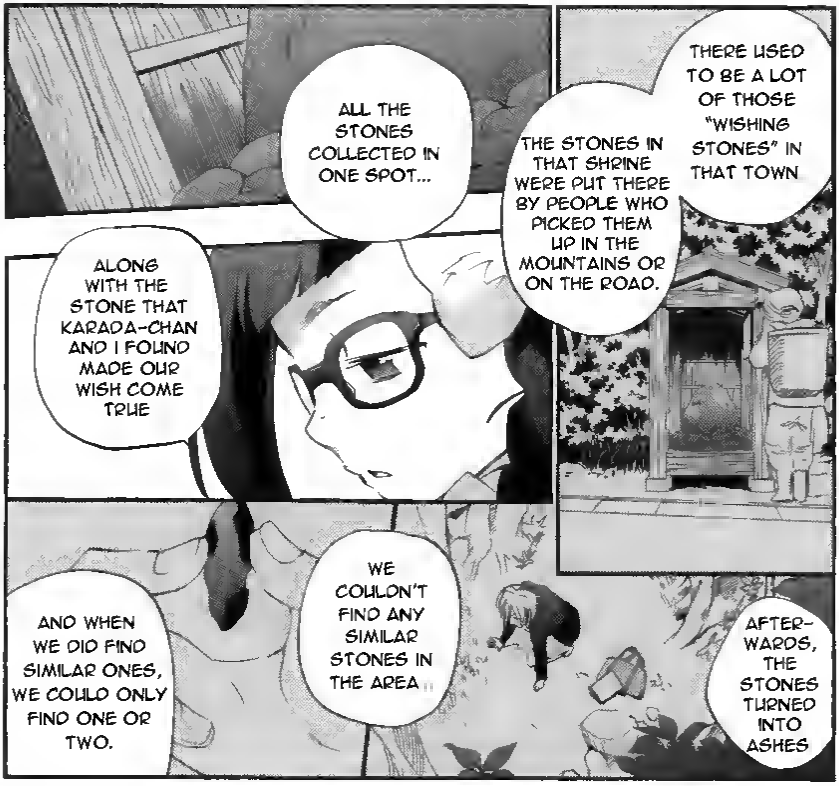
YOU'RE OKAY...
LIVING THIS WAY?
HIRO-NII...
I DON'T WANT ...
TO STAY LIKE THIS.
I DON'T WANT TO REMAIN THIS WAY...
BUT I CAN'T DO ANYTHING.
MY BODY IS AN ADULT...

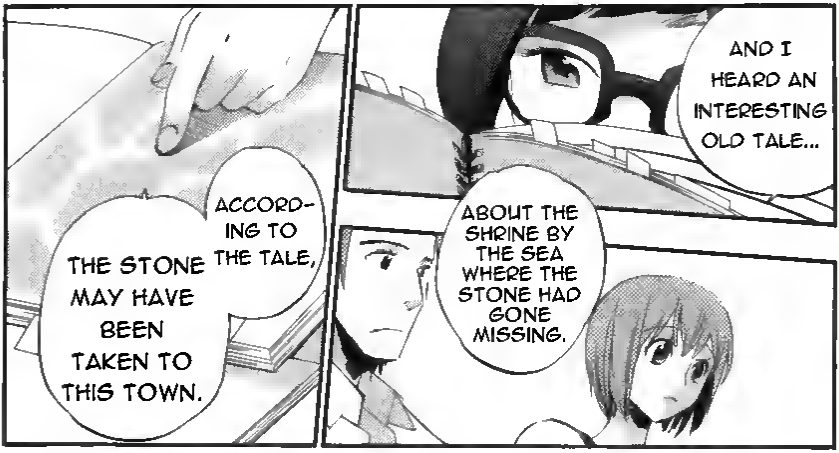
WE DISCUSSED THIS EARLIER.
WE BOTH...
WANT TO RETURN TO NORMAL.
IT MIGHT BE FOOLISH...
TO MAKE A WISH...
HAVE IT COME TRUE...
AND THEN HAVE SECOND THOUGHTS...
BUT IF THERE'S EVEN A TINY POSSIBILITY,
EVEN JUST A LITTLE BIT,
I WANT TO RETURN TO NORMAL,
AND GROW UP INTO
THE ADULT THAT I...
HOPE TO BECOME.

I... ALREADY KNOW THAT I'M...
NOT HIRO-NII'S REAL SISTER...
I'M...AUNT YOUKO--MOM'S... CHILD, RIGHT?
YEAH.
.....
.....
FOUR YEARS...
DID YOU THINK THAT THE WHOLE TIME?
I BECAME SAD THAT
I WAS A CHILD WHO...
COULDN'T DO ANY-THING...
EVERY TIME YOU WORKED
SO HARD FOR ME,
HIRO-NII...

EVEN THOUGH WE DON'T HAVE ANY LEADS ...?
.....
IF THERE IS ONE...WILL YOU KEEP SEARCHING?
MAYBE EVEN MORE STRONGLY, BECAUSE YOU'RE AN ADULT...
IF WE CONTINUE ON LIKE THIS,
YOU MIGHT CONTINUE TO FEEL THAT WAY.
WE HAVE TO TURN BACK.
WE HAVE TO START OVER.

IT'S TRUE THAT THE "STONE" WASN'T THERE ANYMORE.
BUT THE POSSIBILITY STILL EXISTS...
NOT ZERO!
IT'S...

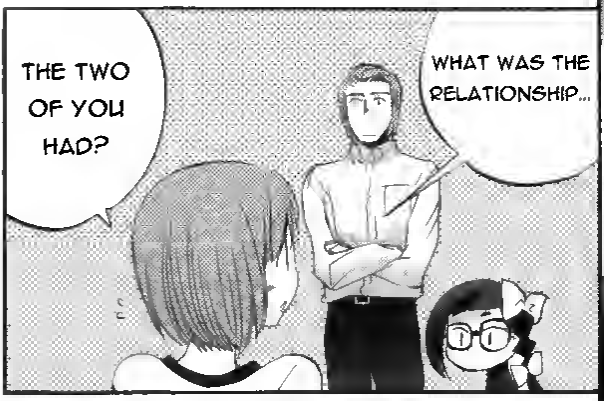

ALL THE STONES COLLECTED IN ONE SPOT...
THERE USED TO BE A LOT OF THOSE "WISHING STONES" IN THAT TOWN
THE STONES IN THAT SHRINE WERE PUT THERE BY PEOPLE WHO PICKED THEM UP IN THE MOUNTAINS OR ON THE ROAD.
ALONG WITH THE STONE THAT KARADA-CHAN AND I FOUND MADE OUR WISH COME TRUE
WE COULDN'T FIND ANY SIMILAR STONES IN THE AREA
AND WHEN WE DID FIND SIMILAR ONES, WE COULD ONLY FIND ONE OR TWO.
AFTER-WARDS, THE STONES TURNED INTO ASHES


AND I HEARD AN INTERESTING OLD TALE...
ABOUT THE SHRINE BY THE SEA WHERE THE STONE HAD GONE MISSING.
ACCORD-ING TO THE TALE,
THE STONE MAY HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO THIS TOWN.

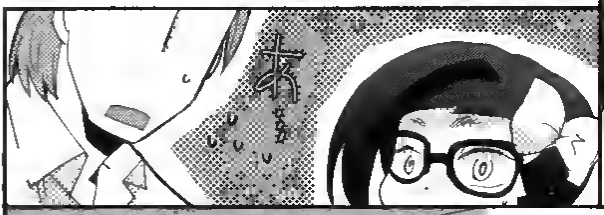
IT MIGHT JUST BE A FAIRY TALE,
BUT AT LEAST...
THIS TOWN IS INVOLVED WITH THIS STONE.
WE MIGHT FIND THE STONE THAT WAS BROUGHT THERE.
WE MIGHT FIND THE STONES IF WE KEEP LOOKING IN THE MOUNTAIN.
IT'S ONLY A POSSI-BILITY...
IT MIGHT SOUND LIKE JUST A FAIRY TALE THAT'S JUST A FANTASY WITHOUT ANY LEADS..
IT'S REALITY.
BUT...

ARE YOU GOING TO DO THE SAME THING AS WHEN YOU LEFT ME...
IF THERE'S A POSSI-BILITY...
I'LL GO AFTER IT.
ARE YOU GOING TO RUN AGAIN?

SHOUKO ...
HAVE I?
YOU'VE CHANGED ...

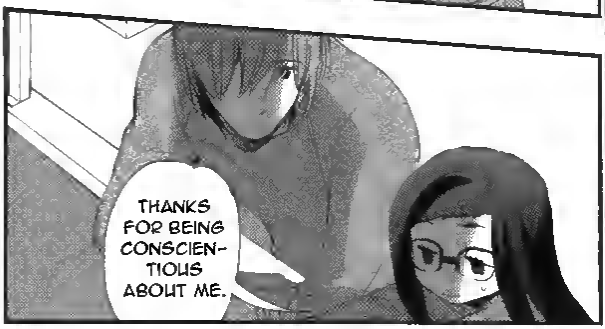

THE TWO OF YOU HAD?
WHAT WAS THE RELATIONSHIP...

UM...
YOU'RE SAYING THINGS LIKE "LEFT ME"...
AND "YOU'VE CHANGED" ...



wait ... were you...
you know ...

WAS THINKING ABOUT IT.
YOU'RE SMOKING


THANKS FOR BEING CONSCIEN-TIOUS ABOUT ME.

THANK YOU.
SHOUKO.
HM?

I DON'T THINK YOU WERE ENTIRELY WRONG IN YOUR ACTIONS.
DON'T WORRY...
I MIGHT HAVE CONTINUED TO LIVE THIS LIFE PRETENDING NOT TO SEE
KARADA TRYING TO HIDE HER SUFFERING.

IT'S STILL A POSSIBILITY THAT WE WON'T TURN BACK.
IT'S ACTUALLY A HIGH PERCENTAGE...
WE'LL HAVE TO THINK MORE ABOUT THE FUTURE IN THE WAY WE ARE.
BUT...
IF THERE'S A POSSIBILITY, I WANT TO TRY IT!
NOTHING CAN BEGIN WITHOUT TRYING!
YOU DID ... CHANGE A LITTLE.
HM?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
YOU DIDN'T USE TO SAY THINGS LIKE "WE HAVE TO TRY"...
I'VE THOUGHT A LOT ABOUT IT!
I'VE HAD A LOT TO THINK ABOUT...
LIKE ABOUT YOUKO-SAN...

BUT JUST BECAUSE MY BODY WENT BACK IN TIME
DOESN'T MEAN MY HEART WILL GO BACK IN TIME.
I WANT TO HEAR MORE ABOUT IT...
I WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO-
I WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CHANGE...
BUT IF I HADN'T TURNED BACK INTO A CHILD
SHOUKO ...
AT LEAST INTO THE PERSON I AM NOW...

WHY DID YOU WANT TO TURN BACK INTO A CHILD?
EH?
IS...
THAT...
IS A SECRET!
IF I TURNED BACK INTO A CHILD I COULD BE MORE HONEST
I WON'T TELL YOU
EVEN IF WE TURN BACK.
AND I WISH I COULD HAVE STOPPED YOU BACK THEN
WHAT I WAS THINK-ING.
NO...

USELESS GARBAGE STONES.
I CAN ONLY FIND ONES LIKE THESE
THEY WERE LOOKING FOR WISHING STONES TOO...
OOPS!
OH, GRAND-FATHER...

IT'S THE "STONE" FROM THE SHRINE THAT TURNED TO ASH, RIGHT?
THE TALE ABOUT YOUR WISHES COMING TRUE
IT'S NOT ANY WISH, IT TRANSFERS TIME BETWEEN PEOPLE
LIKE A CHILD TURNS INTO AN ADULT AND AN ADULT TURNS INTO A CHILD...
YES, BUT I'M ABOUT TO GO TO SLEEP
YOU'RE STILL AWAKE
UM... I ASKED YOU BEFORE, BUT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE WISHING STONE?

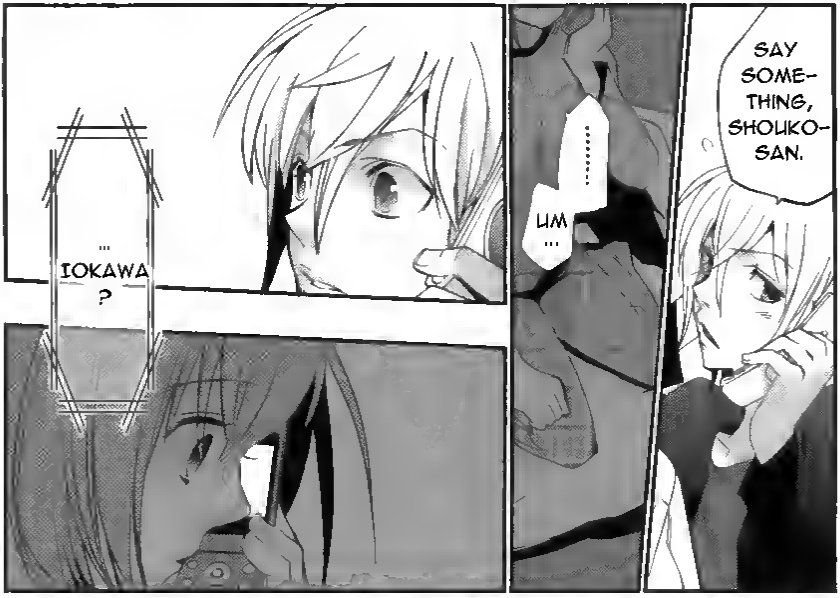
AH, I KNOW.
RIGHT! RIGHT!
BUT THIS STONE IS NOT LIKE ANY OTHER...
THE SHAPE IS A LITTLE DIFFER-ENT...

WHAT?!
I SAW IT IN THE SHED UP IN THE MOUNTAIN.
IT HADN'T TURNED INTO ASH.
REALLY!?
LET ME SEE IT! LET ME SEE IT!
IT'S TOO LATE NOW, YOU CAN SEE IT AFTER SCHOOL.
THAT'S TRUE...
KEEP YOUR PROMISE.
I ALWAYS LISTEN TO ANYTHING YOU SAY, GRAND-FATHER!
OKAY, OKAY!
ANY-THING!!
BUT THERE IS...
ONE CONDI-TION

OF COURSE
I WILL!
CALL FROM: AMINO TETSU

SHOUKO-SAN!?
IT'S ME!!
DON'T GET MAD ABOUT CALLING YOU SO LATE!!
OKAY!! OKAY, DON'T FREAK OUT!!
WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO FIND IT!! THE "WISHING STONE"!!

AND SO CAN SHE!?
PLUS! IT MIGHT BE AT OUR HOUSE! THERE'S A SHED WHERE WE KEEP A LOT OF STUFF! I'M GOING TO CHECK IT OUT TOMORROW!
IF WE FIND IT THEN YOU CAN TURN BACK RIGHT?
HELLO?
SO CAN IOKA-WA!


SAY SOME-THING, SHOUKO-SAN.
.....
UM ...
... IOKAWA?

WAIT...
DON'T --
OH...
SORRY, DID WE WAKE YOU?
UM...
JUST NOW...
OKAY THEN TOMO-PROW
YES THANK YOU

LET'S RETURN TO THE TOWN TOMORROW.
KARADA-CHAN, YOU TOO.
HMM,
IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE JUST HEARING IT.
SO! KARADA-CHAN!
ALL RIGHT,
I'LL CATCH UP LATER TOO AS WELL.
CAN YOU MAKE IT?
IT'S FOR MY FAMILY.
ぽん ぽん♪
I'LL DO SOME-THING!

T/N BULLET TRAIN

PASSED THROUGH MY HEART.
IF EVERYTHING TURNS BACK TO NORMAL
THEN THIS TIME I'LL GROW UP TO BE A REAL ADULT...
INTO AN ADULT...
THAT CAN DO ANY-THING.
UM, EX-CUSE ME ...

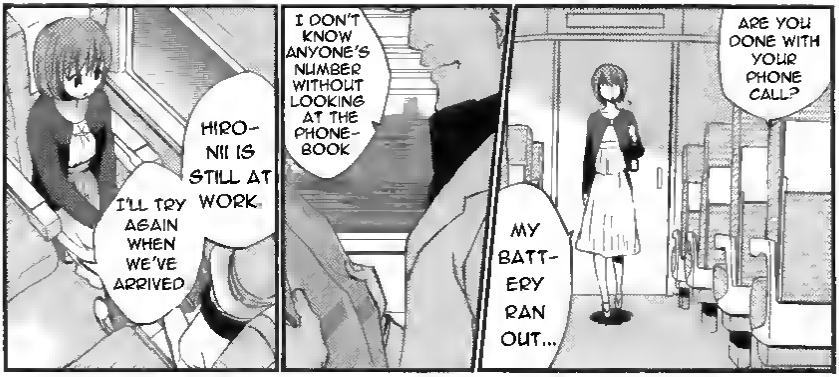
YOU'RE IOKAWA ...
KARADA-SAN, RIGHT?
YES?
WHY?
THE TRAIN IS AT 3:00...
IT TURNS OUT THE WISHING STONE... IS...
THE TRAIN IS ABOUT TO DEPART.
SHOUKO-SAN, I'M AT THE STATION NOW...
OH, KARADA-CHAN.

TEXT ABOVE SAYS "THE DOORS WILL NOW CLOSE"

I ONLY KNOW YOUR NUMBER ANYWAY
SO THAT'S WHY LAST NIGHT TOO...
I CAN'T REACH HER...
...EH? I DIDN'T CALL HER.
HEY!
WEREN'T YOU GUYS COMING HERE TODAY?!
WHAT'S THAT MEAN?!
IO-KAWA!?
WHAT!?
HEY!

KIKUKO-SAMA HAS A TASK JUST FOR ME.
I'M SORRY, BUT I WON'T GO COLLECT STONES WITH YOU TODAY.
OH...
YUM!
ONLY ME-- SHE SAID TO COME ALONE.
OKAY...
DON'T YOU WANT TO HEAR ABOUT IT?
HEHE!
SO?
I'M NOT TELLING!
WHAT IS IT?

OH, JUST KIDDING.
I DON'T REALLY KNOW THE DETAILS...

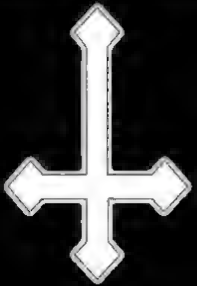

ARE YOU DONE WITH YOUR PHONE CALL?
MY BATT-ERY RAN OUT...
I DON'T KNOW ANYONE'S NUMBER WITHOUT LOOKING AT THE PHONE-BOOK
HIRO-NII IS STILL AT WORK.
I'LL TRY AGAIN WHEN WE'VE ARRIVED

IT'S...

I NEED THE STONE IN ITS NORMAL STATE!
SO...THE WISHING STONE IS TURNING INTO ASH?
AN IMPORTANT GUEST...
EVERYTHING...
YES, BUT IT'S OKAY, WE'LL MAKE IT IN TIME.
IS HERE.
GOING BACK TO NORMAL...
I HAVE HEARD THAT IF SOMEONE WHO HAS TRANSFORMED TOUCHES THE "WISHING STONE" ...
IT WILL STOP TURNING INTO ASH

ARIENAI!
TLER: SHIROKURO
EDITING: NIHIL SINE NEFAS
RAWS: MAGRANA

JOIN US ON IRC AT #ARIENAI! ON IRCHIGHWAY.



THIS CHAPTER
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NOTHING WITHOUT SIN

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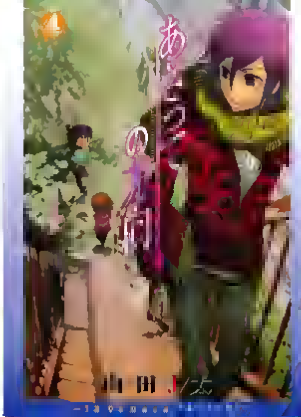

あっちこっちの神 4
山田J太
MAG GARDEN

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マッグガーデン

月刊コミックブレイド

あの笑顔には、戻れない…戻らない。
山田J太が贈る話題のファンタジーコミック第4巻。
番外編も収録して遂に完売。
山田J太
山田
太

MASA MUNE
コミックブレイドMASAMUNE

あさっての方向。4
山田J太

MAG GARDEN

a direction of
the day after tomorrow

a direction of

the day after tomorrow

4

J-TA YAMADA PRESENTS

a direction of the day after tomorrow

C/O/N/T/E/N/T/S

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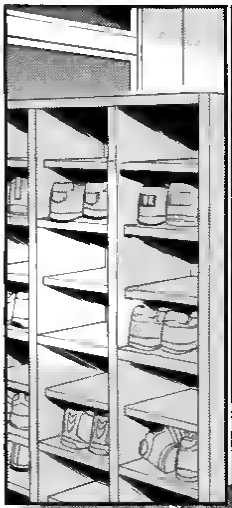
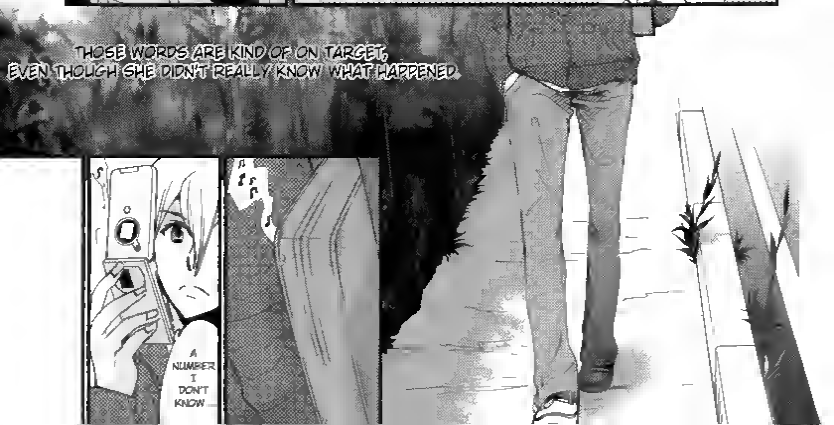
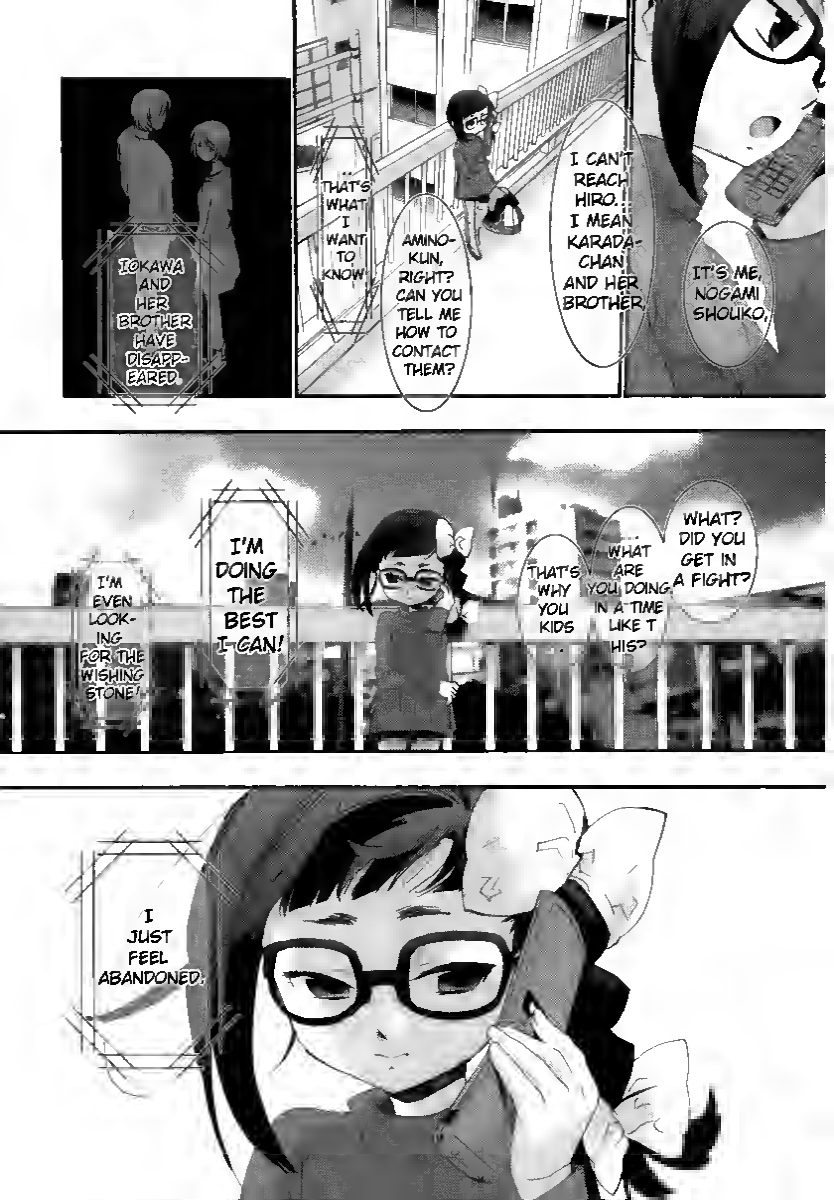
Everyone was curious about what happened to Iokawa, because due to "illness" and sudden "transfer" to another school, he didn't return after summer vacation. As everyone got excited about sports day and field trips, The topic of Iokawa was soon forgotten.



No one knew what really happened
AMINO, LET'S GO TO
. . .
SORRY
One of the girls used to say, I feel kind of abandoned."
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT.



UNFORTUNATELY, NO
TOKAWA?
YOU WERE KARADA-CHAN'S FRIEND WEREN'T YOU?
I ASSUMED YOU WERE WITH THEM
SO I'M THANKFUL YOU CALLED
I MEANT TO CALL YOU, BUT I DIDN'T KNOW YOUR NUMBER,
IF I DON'T DO ANYTHING I...
I LOOK FOR THE STONE EVERY DAY, I'VE EVEN BEEN GOING TO THE LIBRARY EVERY SUNDAY.


IOKAWA AND HER BROTHER HAVE DISAPP-EARED.
...THAT'S WHAT I WANT TO KNOW.
AMINO-KUN, RIGHT? CAN YOU TELL ME HOW TO CONTACT THEM?
I CAN'T REACH HIRO... I MEAN KARADA-CHAN AND HER BROTHER.
IT'S ME, NOGAMI SHOUKO.
I'M EVEN LOOK-ING FOR THE WISHING STONE!
I'M DOING THE BEST I CAN!
THAT'S WHY YOU KIDS.
...WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN A TIME LIKE THIS?
WHAT? DID YOU GET IN A FIGHT?
I JUST FEEL ABANDONED.

...WE'RE THE ONE'S THAT GOT ABANDONED,
OH YEAH, BY THE WAY SHOUKO-SAN, YOU'RE SMART RIGHT?
I'M AVERAGE!
THERE ARE SO MANY WORDS I CAN'T READ IN THE ANCIENT TEXT SO CAN YOU HELP? THERE'S A CHARACTER THAT LOOKS LIKE "MI" IN HIRAGANA...
I CAN'T FIGURE IT OUT WITH YOU VERBALLY TELLING ME,
I'LL GO INTO A COPY CENTER SO CAN YOU FAX IT FOR ME.
OH YEAH RIGHT, OK, THANKS.
ABAN-DONED, HUH?
BY TIME.

IT WASN'T HERE WHEN WE CAME LAST TIME!
I WONDER IF WE CAN REALLY FIND IT, THE "WISHING STONE."
THE BOX WAS EMPTY.
OW!
...I KNOW THAT!

WE JUST DON'T HAVE ANY OTHER LEADS
IT MIGHT NOT BE HERE ANYMORE, BUT IT WAS ONCE HERE
THAT MEANS THIS IS OUR BEST BET.
I SHOULD HAVE STUCK TO RESEA-RCHING THIS ON MY OWN ...
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO CAME TO ME SAYING "I CAN'T READ IT!!"

EXTRA CHAPTER:
MERMAID LIGHT
ANYWAY,
LET'S FIND OUT MORE,
ABOUT THE OLD TALE
WITH THE "WISHING STONE."
HEY!
COME ON!

I CAN TOO ...
YEAH!
I'M GOING IN TOO!
HE-EEY
HEEEEY
YOU COME IN TOO!
HEY TASUKE.
IT'S NOT THAT HIGH!

I...
CAN'T ... DO IT.
OH YOU'RE STILL AFRAID OF HEIGHTS!
THIS IS THE LOWEST DIVING POINT!!
OH COME ON, WEAKLING!! SCAREDY CAT!
THERE ARE HIGHER POINTS OVER THERE ...
HEY,
HE...
LOOK

HEY ...IS THAT KID, GOING TO JUMP FROM THERE?
IMPOSS-IBLE! EVEN I'D BE SCARED AT THAT HEIGHT ...
SHOULDN'T WE STOP THAT KID?
IT'S DEEPER AND YOU CAN'T EVEN SEE ANYTHING.
THE CURRENT IS FASTER TOO SO MY DAD ALWAYS TOLD ME TO STAY AWAY.

IT'S OKAY, I BET THAT KID CAN'T ...
!
WAAH! HEY!
STOP!
THAT'S DANGER-OUS!
!

ほぉ…
と
ムニャ…

WASN'T THAT KID,
THE ONE THAT THE PRIEST BROUGHT FROM EDO...
STUPID!
PROBABLY CHICKENED OUT.
I GUESS THE KID'S NOT JUMPING.
WHAT THE...

HEY,
I WONDER IF THAT KID REALLY DIDN'T JUMP BECAUSE HE WAS SCARED.
OHHH RIGHT, MY MOM STILL SAYS EDO, SO
IT'S NOT "EDO" ANYMORE!
IT'S "TOKYO"
STUPID
DON'T PUSH ME!
DIDN'T LOOK SCARED AT ALL
... WOAH!
IF YOU HIT A MESSY HEAD, IT SOUNDS LIKE CIVILIZ-ATION ENLIGHT-ENMENT.

YOU SHOULD CUT IT TOO BROTHER.
ANYWAY IT FEELS GOOD TO CUT YOUR HAIR,
... GOES THE SONG.
WE PROMISED EACH OTHER THAT THE FIRST HALF OF THE MONTH THE UPPER SHRINE MAY HAVE IT AND THE LAST HALF OF THE MONTH THE LOWER SHRINE WOULD,
DIDN'T WE!?
GIVE US BACK OUR SACRED ORNAMENT.
... I HAVE NOTHING TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT,
PLEASE, PLEASE, JUST LEND IT TO ME FOR A LITTLE WHILE LONGER
WHY HAVE YOU NOT RETURNED IT YET AFTER 10 DAYS!!

IT'S NOT LIKE IT'S GOING TO DISAPPEAR IF IT'S NOT IN USE,
IT'S A "WISHING STONE."
WELL... I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW TO USE IT,
.....?
THAT'S HOW THESE SACRED OBJECTS ARE,
REALLY, IT'S JUST A STONE ...
I KNOW ...
YOUR SHRINE HAS BEEN "USING" THE STONE LATELY, FOR SOMETHING SUSPICIOUS.
ARE YOU TRYING TO BRING FORTH A MIRACLE BY SOAKING IT IN WATER OR SOMETHING...?
YOU RE FAKE!
WHAT'S TI-E PROBLEM?

WHAT!
THE UPPER SHRINE AND LOWER SHRINE,
ARE TWO SHRINES THAT HONOR THE "WISHING STONE" AS SACRED.
THE PARISHIONERS THAT CAME TO THE UPPER SHRINE WERE ALL WEALTHY PEOPLE,
AND THE SHRINE HAS ALWAYS BEEN LARGE AND AFFLUENT.
YOU HAVE TO USE ANYTHING YOU CAN USE,
OR ELSE I CAN'T SURVIVE.
YOU SHOULD ALSO CONSIDER ...
YOU SACRILIGIOUS SINNER!!
HOW CAN YOU DO SUCH A THING !!
WHAT YOU'RE DOING IS
BLASPH-EMY TOWARDS THE SACRED!

4
YOU'RE AS THICK-HEADED AND STOIC AS ALWAYS, NOBIMITSU ...
Motoharu!
Give me the "stone" ...
LET ME HOLD ON TO IT A LITTLE LONGER.
I WILL EVENTUALLY RETURN IT.
I'M GOING TO EXPOSE YOUR WRONG DOING.
I WILL!
... WITH THAT KIND OF DETERM-INATION,
HE MIGHT COME ATTACK ME AS SOON AS TOMOR-ROW.
I HAVE TO HIDE IT TONIGHT...
SHIZUKU

I LEAVE IT UP TO YOU.
I'LL SECRETLY PRACTICE, NOW THAT IT'S NIGHT TIME...
IT'S THE KID FROM EARLIER

HEEEEEEEEEY...
F...
FLEW?

HEY!
ARE YOU OKAY!!?
I'M GLAD!
IT'S SO DANGE-ROUS OVER THERE.
I DON'T THINK EVEN AN ADULT CAN JUMP IN
SURE.
YOU'RE AMAZING! I'M IN SHOCK!!
CAN YOU TELL ME HOW IT'S DONE?

You you you!
A girl!!?
Eh!
あ!!がと
YOUR HAIR IS SHORT AND YOUR CLOTHES ARE...
SO I...
IT'S BEEN SO LONG!
I ALWAYS DID WORK LIKE THIS BEFORE I CAME HERE.
I HADN'T SHOCKED ANYONE IN SO LONG.
?
I KNOW!
DO YOU WANT TO SEE SOMETHING BETTER?

WHAT?
THAT'S A BRIGHT FIRE CRACKER!
ALRIGHT YOU'RE ABOUT TO SEE ONE OF THE RAREST UNDERWATER FIREWORKS
NOW THIS IS GOING TO DISAPPEAR SOONER OR...

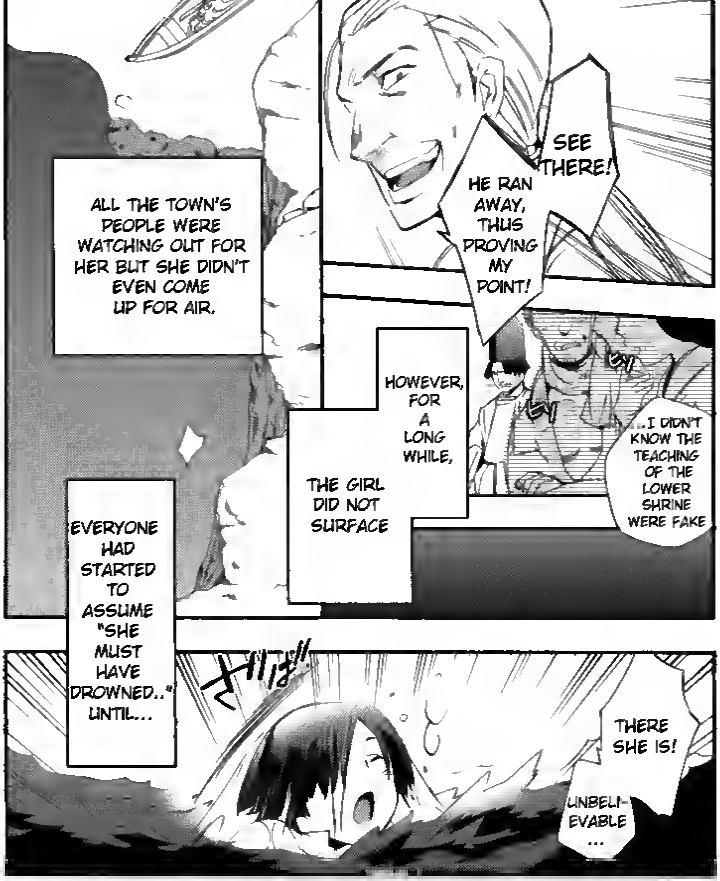
IT'S NOT... DISAPPEAR ...ING...
MAGNESIUM CAN BURN AND EMIT LIGHT IN THE ATMOSPHERE,
BUT IT CAN ALSO CONTINUE TO DO SO IN BOILING WATER.
IT'S NOTHING SPECIAL.
IT'S SOMETHING ANYONE CAN GET THEIR HANDS ON IF THEY KNOW HOW.
BUT IT IS PRETTY RARE IN THIS TOWN.

THE POWER OF THE DIVINE-BEING
CAN ONLY BE SEEN AT THE LOWER SHRINE
SFX SHUFFLE

IS ABOUT TO WORK MIRACLES WHICH CAN ONLY BE SEEN HERE.
LOOK HERE LOOK HERE.
THIS SACRED STONE,
THIS WATER IS HOLY WATER THAT HAS BEEN PURIFIED BY THIS STONE FOR THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS.
THIS FIRE HAS NOT GONE OUT SINCE.
!
THAT IS,
代当
A FAKE!

物世見一代
人魚光
手妻師・しづく
さわ
さわ
IT'S MAGIC ...
THIS IS NO MIRACLE AS HE SAYS!
IT'S ALL A PERFORMANCE HE HAS THOUGHT UP WITH A MAGICIAN HE BROUGHT FROM TOKYO!
YOU CAN'T FOOL ANYONE JUST BY CUTTING YOU HAIR AND WEARING BOY'S CLOTHES
NOW,
RETURN THE STONE!
TASUKE HOLD THIS
MEET ME AT THE BAY
PLEASE!
HIDE IT!!
IN THE USUAL SPOT!!

IT'S PRETTY HEAVY !
THANKS !


ALL THE TOWN'S PEOPLE WERE WATCHING OUT FOR HER BUT SHE DIDN'T EVEN COME UP FOR AIR.
HOWEVER, FOR A LONG WHILE, THE GIRL DID NOT SURFACE
EVERYONE HAD STARTED TO ASSUME "SHE MUST HAVE DROWNED.." UNTIL...
SEE THERE! HE RAN AWAY, THUS PROVING MY POINT!
..I DIDN'T KNOW THE TEACHING OF THE LOWER SHRINE WERE FAKE
THERE SHE IS!
UNBELI-EVABLE ...
SHE HELD HER BREATH FOR THIS LONG!?
JUMPING OFF FROM THAT POINT...
IT'S EVEN A MYSTERY THAT SHE SURVIVED.
YES! IT'S THE POWER OF THE "STONE"!

THE STONE HAD PROTECTED HER IN THE WATER!
THAT'S WHY SHE COULD STAY UNDER SO LONG!
THERE'S NO OTHER POSSIBLE EXPLANATION ...
MAYBE ...
I'VE NEVER SEEN A MIRACLE FROM THE TOP SHRINE.
YES, INDEED
MAYBE THE STONE AT THE UPPER SHRINE WAS JUST A ROCK.
THE LOWER SHRINE IS MORE ...
WHICH MEANS ...
THAT WAS AMAZING!!
HOW'D YOU DO THAT!?
THAT WAS ...
HEE-EEY.

WHAT'S WRONG?
BRING ME,
THE "STONE" NOW.
DON'T TRY SHIT, JUST COME TO ME WITH THE WISHING STONE
NOW THERE WON'T BE ANYMORE MIRACLES.

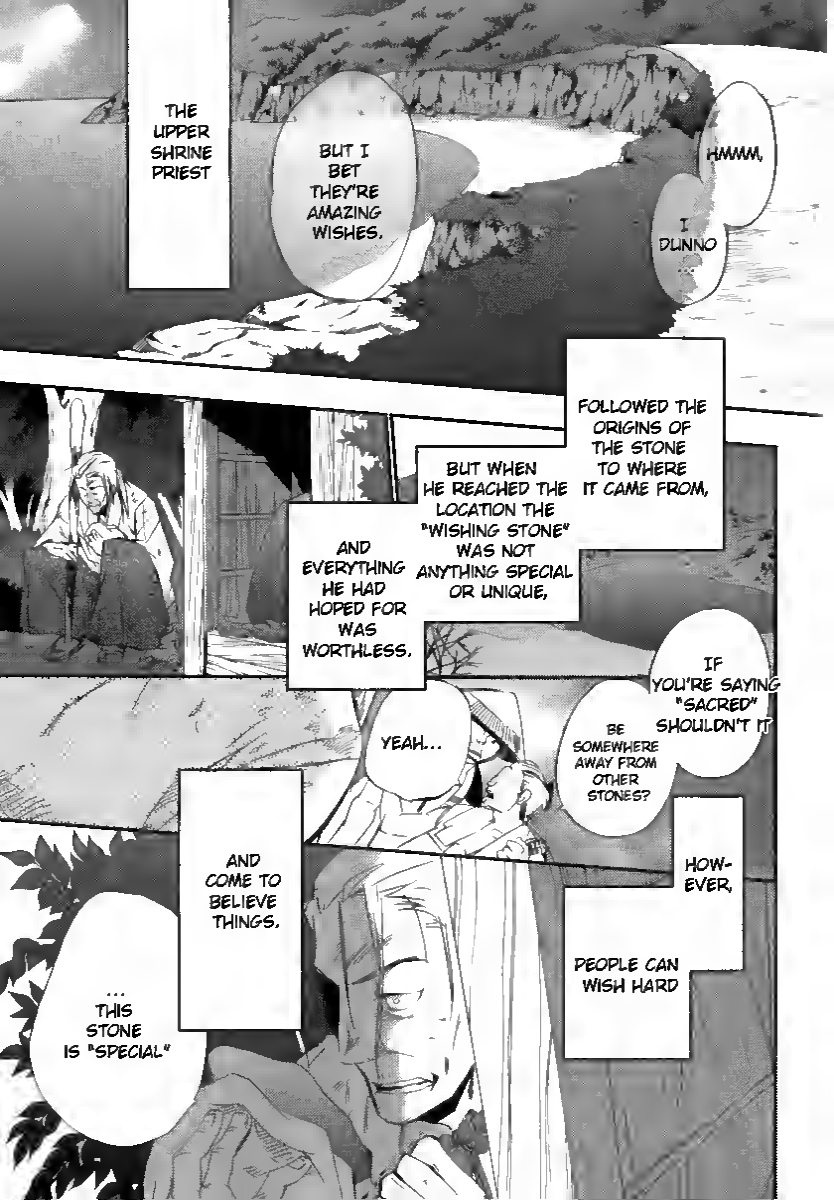
I CAN'T JUMP FROM HERE...
SHE KNOWS...
JUMP OFF AND ESCAPE!!
FORGET ME.
I'M SORRY.
UPPER SHRINE PRIEST.
I CAN'T FORGIVE YOU,
ESPECIALLY, YOU, MAGICIAN!
YOUR MAGIC TRICK OF STAYING UNDER WATER,
THE TRICK HAS TO DO WITH THAT BALL,
YOU SINNER!!
OK
WE NEVER PRACTICED,
BUT CAN YOU TEACH ME HOW TO JUMP NOW!!
... OKAY!

ドン

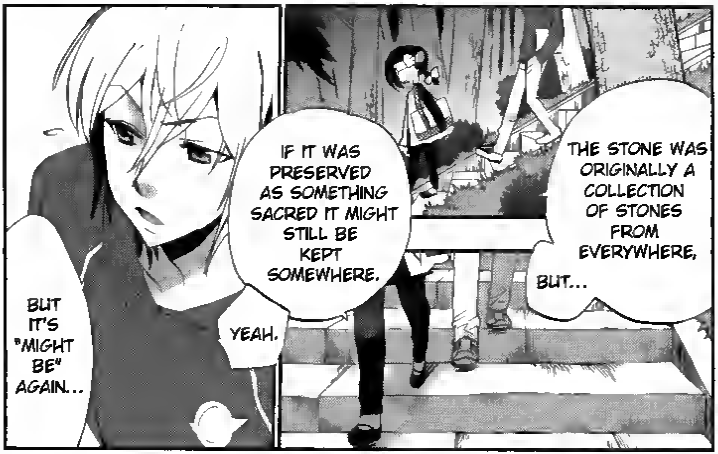
WHERE ARE WE?
IT'S THE TRICK.
I JUST SANK A BUNCH OF THESE BARRELS
YOU ALWAYS HAVE TO SET UP YOUR TRICKS IN ADVANCE

ARE YOU SHOCKED?
...SHOCKED!
THE UPPER SHRINE PRIEST TOOK THE "STONE" AND RAN,
DISAPPEARING ALTOGETHER
THE SACRED ORNAMENT HAS NOT DISAPPEARED,
JUST,
BROTHER...
NO.
I...
I...

IT JUST STOPPED DISPLAYING IT'S MIRACLES FOR ANYONE.
SINCE THEN,
THE LOWER SHRINE CONTINUED TO HONOR AN "EMPTY BOX."
THE UPPER SHRINE NOW WITHOUT A OWNER WAS CLEANED UP BY THE LOWER SHRINE,
AND THE "SACRED BOX" WAS PUT AWAY.
... YOU'RE GOING BACK TO TOKYO?
YEAH, I HAVE NO USE HERE ANYMORE.
I'M GOING BACK TO CONTINUE MY MAGIC SHOWS.
BY THE WAY...
WHAT KIND OF WISHES DOES THE "WISHING STONE" GRANT?

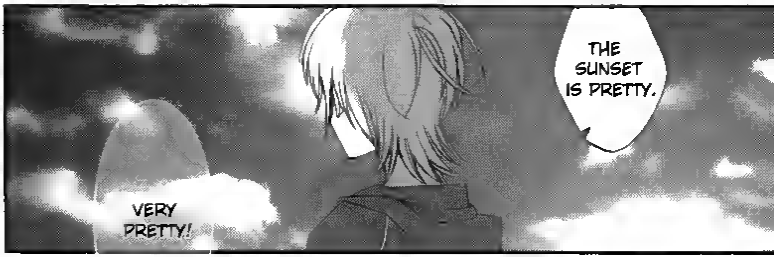

THE UPPER SHRINE PRIEST
BUT I BET THEY'RE AMAZING WISHES.
HMMM,
I DUNNO...
FOLLOWED THE ORIGINS OF THE STONE TO WHERE IT CAME FROM,
BUT WHEN HE REACHED THE LOCATION THE "WISHING STONE" WAS NOT ANYTHING SPECIAL OR UNIQUE,
AND EVERYTHING HE HAD HOPED FOR WAS WORTHLESS.
IF YOU'RE SAYING "SACRED" SHOULDN'T IT BE SOMEWHERE AWAY FROM OTHER STONES?
YEAH...
HOW-EVER,
PEOPLE CAN WISH HARD
AND COME TO BELIEVE THINGS.
... THIS STONE IS "SPECIAL"

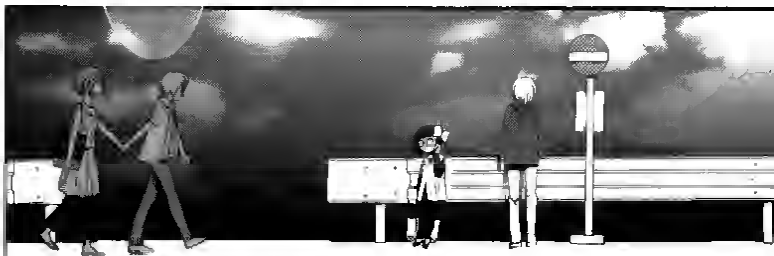
LET ME SHOW YOU A MIRACLE.
THE LOCATION THAT THE UPPER SHRINE PRIEST HAD GONE.
GO BOIL SOME WATER.
AND BRING SOME FIRE ...
HOLDING THE SACRED STONE IS BELIEVED TO BE...
IT'S HERE...!
... THEN IT'S USELESS.
THERE CAN BE ANOTHER POSS-IBILITY.
IT'S ALREADY TURNED INTO ASHES.
WHAT...
THAT'S OUR SHRINE


THE STONE WAS ORIGINALLY A COLLECTION OF STONES FROM EVERYWHERE,
BUT...
IF IT WAS PRESERVED AS SOMETHING SACRED IT MIGHT STILL BE KEPT SOMEWHERE.
YEAH.
BUT IT'S "MIGHT BE" AGAIN...

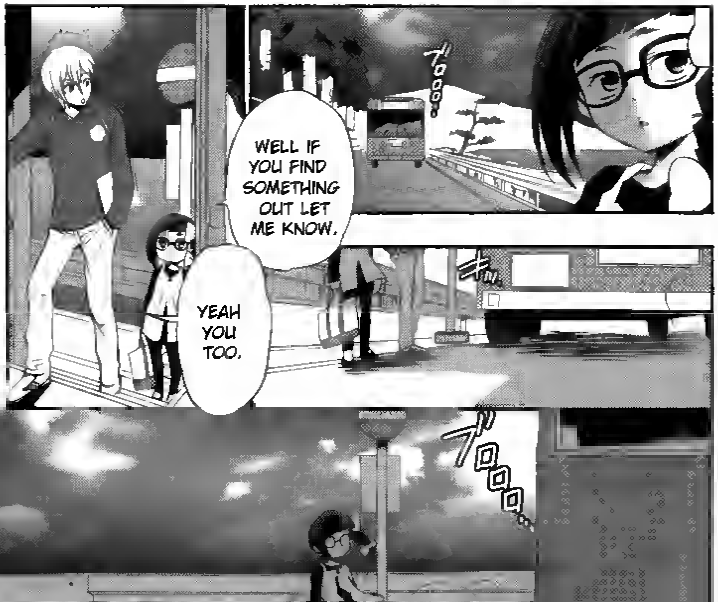
WE'RE BACK TO THE BEGINNING AGAIN.
NOT COMPL-ETELY.
WE HAVE MORE HOPE THAN BEFORE, SO IT'S NOT THE "BEGI-NNING,"
WE HAVE AN IDEA OF WHERE THE POSSIBILITY LIES!

CAN YOU GET HOME BY YOURSELF?
OF COURSE!!
I'M GOING TO STAY BEHIND AND A BIT, LOOK AROUND SOME MORE.
HM-MM.
IT SHOULD BE HERE IN 5 MINUTES,
GOOD TIMING.


THE SUNSET IS PRETTY.
VERY PRETTY!



... THE SUNSET!!
...I STILL CAN'T REACH THEM... YOU REALLY DON'T KNOW WHERE KARADA-CHAN WENT?
YOU'RE HER FRIEND.
I DON'T KNOW ...


WELL IF YOU FIND SOMETHING OUT LET ME KNOW.
YEAH YOU TOO.
ブロロロ...

AND YET.

THE FEELINGS TOWARDS THE BETTER PAST,

WILL NEVER BE ERASED,

FROM MY HEART.

YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO COME TOO YOUKO-SAN.
IT'S AN IMPORTANT TIME FOR YOU SO...
BUT I WON'T SEE YOU FOR A WHILE HII-KUN.
IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING YOU WANT, TELL ME SO WE CAN SEND IT TO YOU
OK.
YOU'RE COMING BACK WHEN YOU HAVE VACATION THROUGH RIGHT?
... PROBABLY, NOT.

Arienai! & Hells_Castle Presents:

Asatte no Houkou V.4 Omake 1

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Editor: Zook
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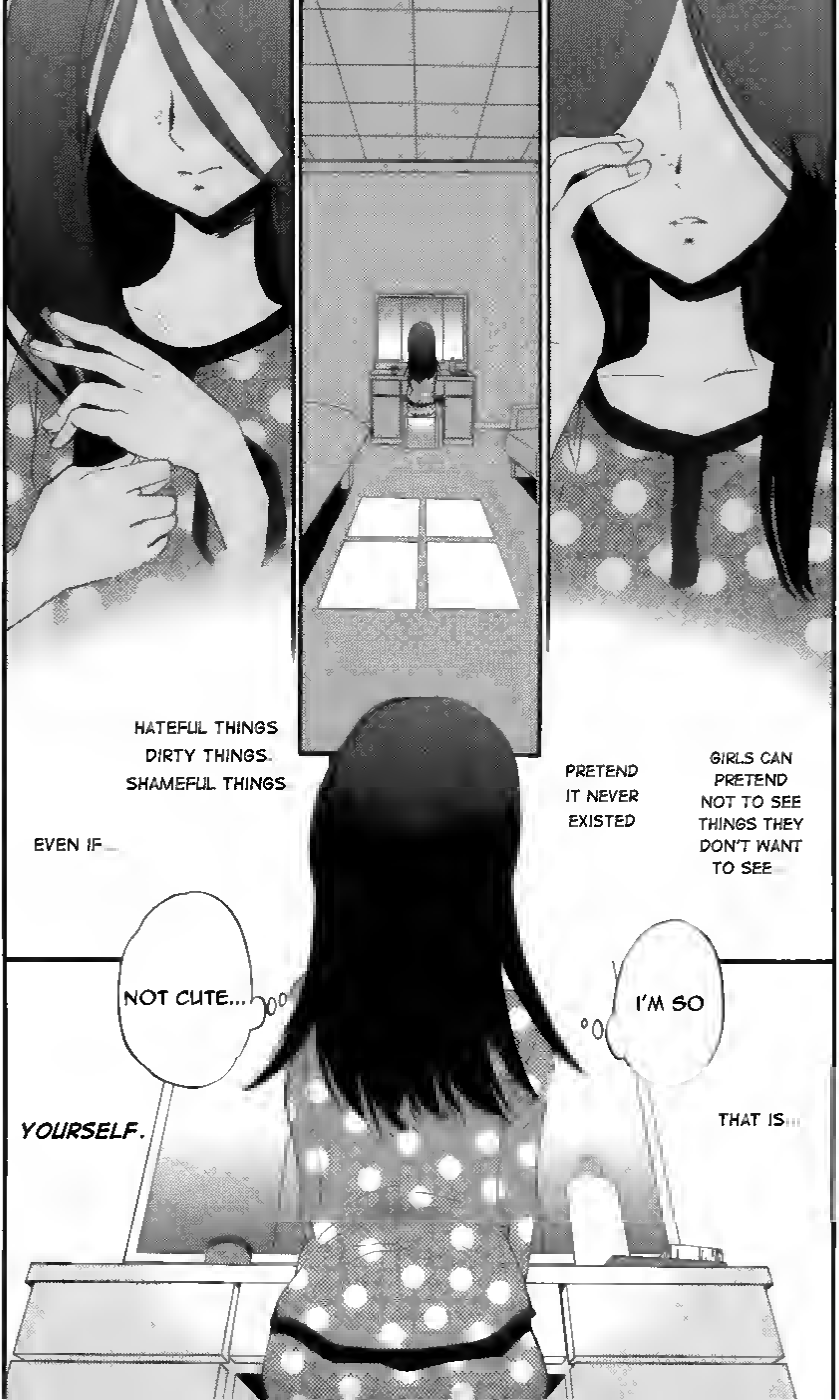
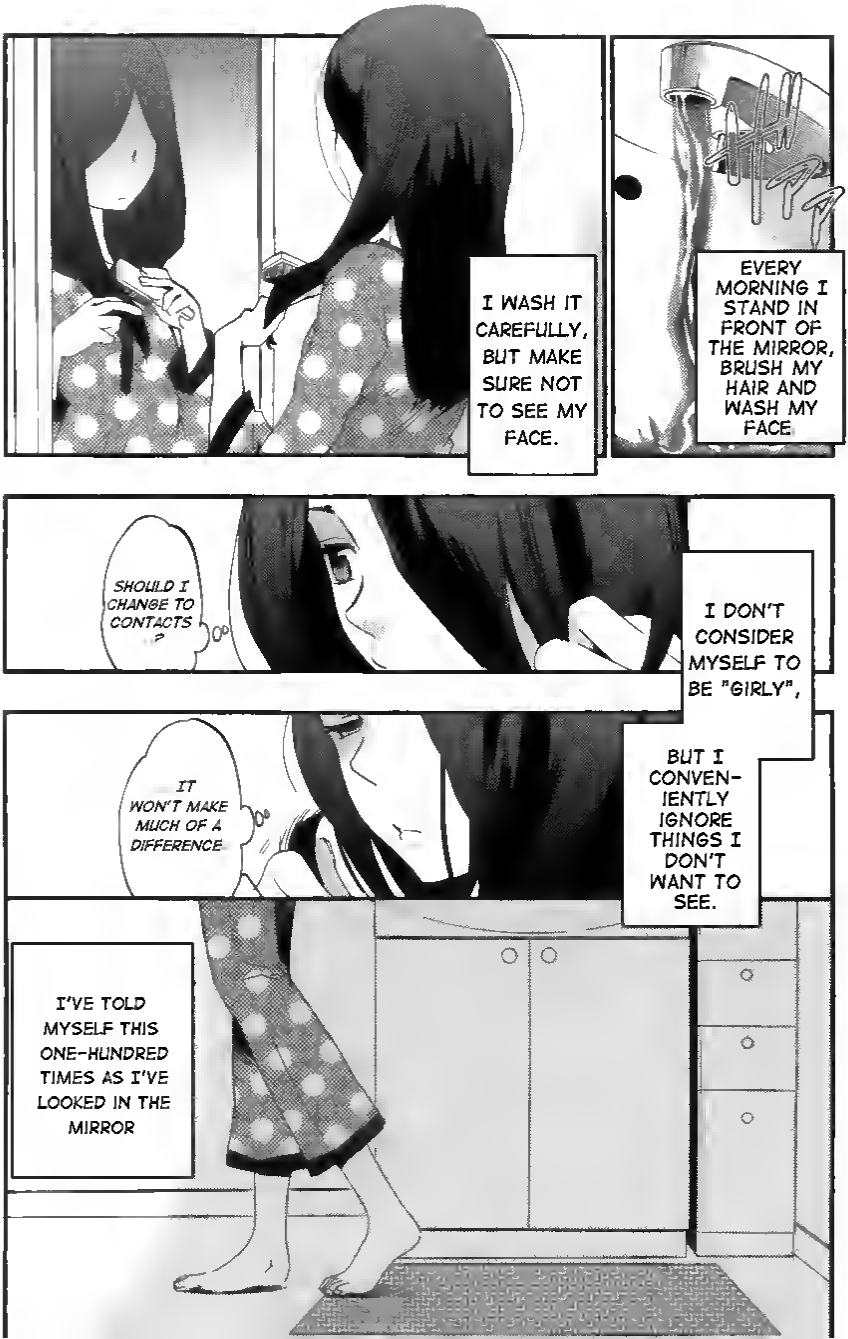
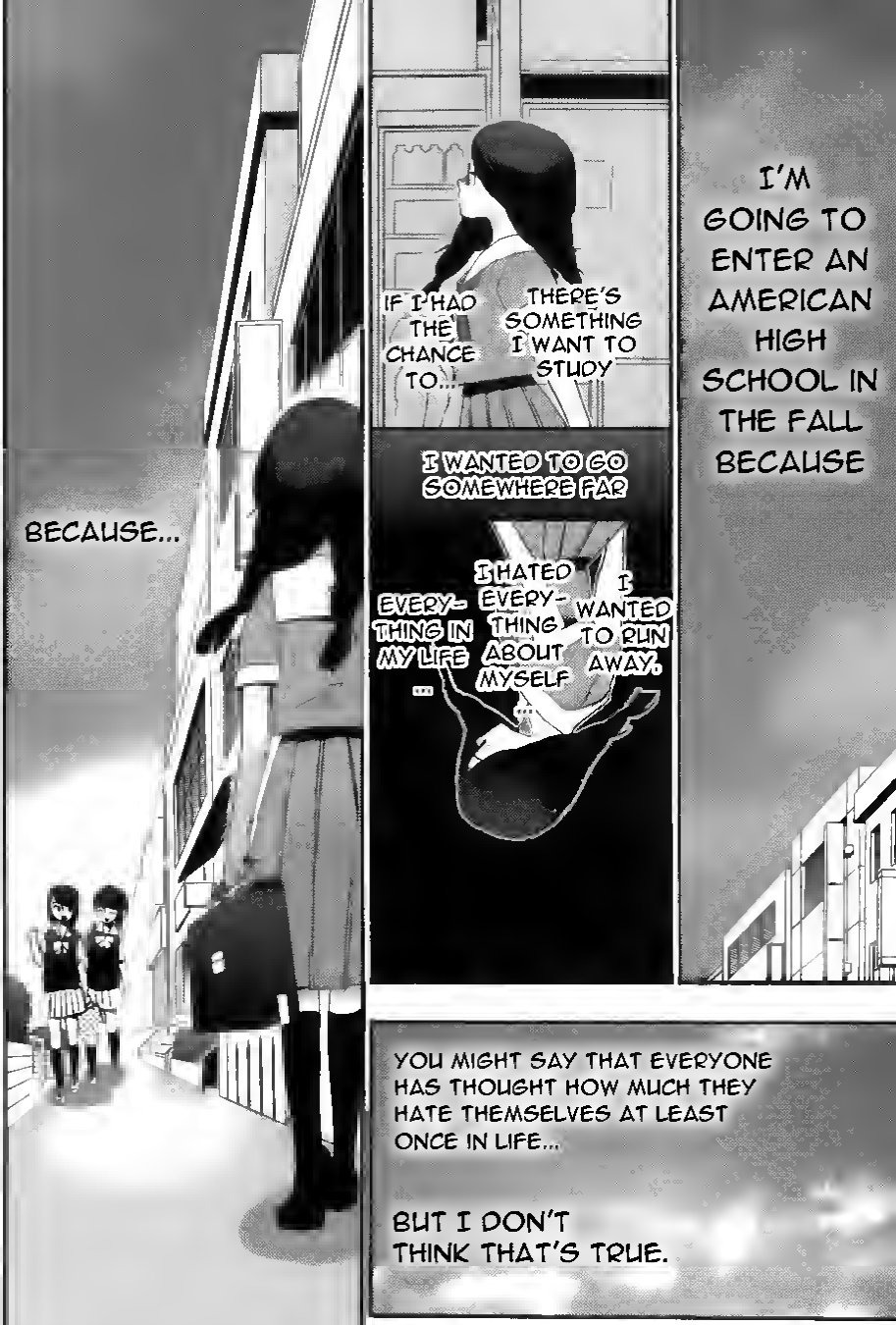
EXTRA CHAPTER: SPRING LIGHT


HATEFUL THINGS
DIRTY THINGS
SHAMEFUL THINGS
EVEN IF...
PRETEND IT NEVER EXISTED
GIRLS CAN PRETEND NOT TO SEE THINGS THEY DON'T WANT TO SEE...
NOT CUTE...
I'M SO
YOURSELF.
THAT IS...


I WASH IT CAREFULLY, BUT MAKE SURE NOT TO SEE MY FACE.
EVERY MORNING I STAND IN FRONT OF THE MIRROR, BRUSH MY HAIR AND WASH MY FACE.
SHOULD I CHANGE TO CONTACTS?
I DON'T CONSIDER MYSELF TO BE "GIRLY",
BUT I CONVENIENTLY IGNORE THINGS I DON'T WANT TO SEE.
IT WON'T MAKE MUCH OF A DIFFERENCE.
I'VE TOLD MYSELF THIS ONE-HUNDRED TIMES AS I'VE LOOKED IN THE MIRROR


I'M GOING TO ENTER AN AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL IN THE FALL BECAUSE
IF I HAD THE CHANCE TO...
THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO STUDY
I WANTED TO GO SOMEWHERE FAR
I HATED EVERY-THING ABOUT MYSELF
I WANTED TO RUN AWAY.
EVERY-THING IN MY LIFE
BECAUSE...
YOU MIGHT SAY THAT EVERYONE HAS THOUGHT HOW MUCH THEY HATE THEMSELVES AT LEAST ONCE IN LIFE...
BUT I DON'T THINK THAT'S TRUE.

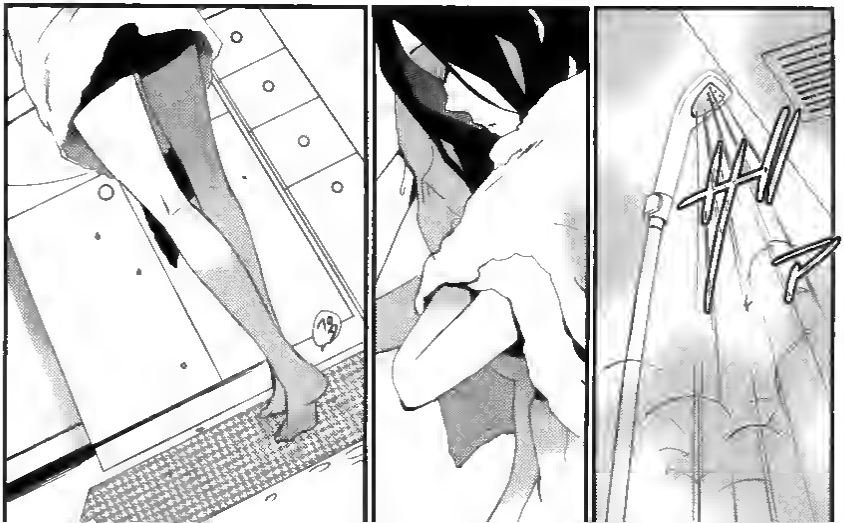
EVERYONE LOOKS SO PRETTY.
UNLIKE ME...

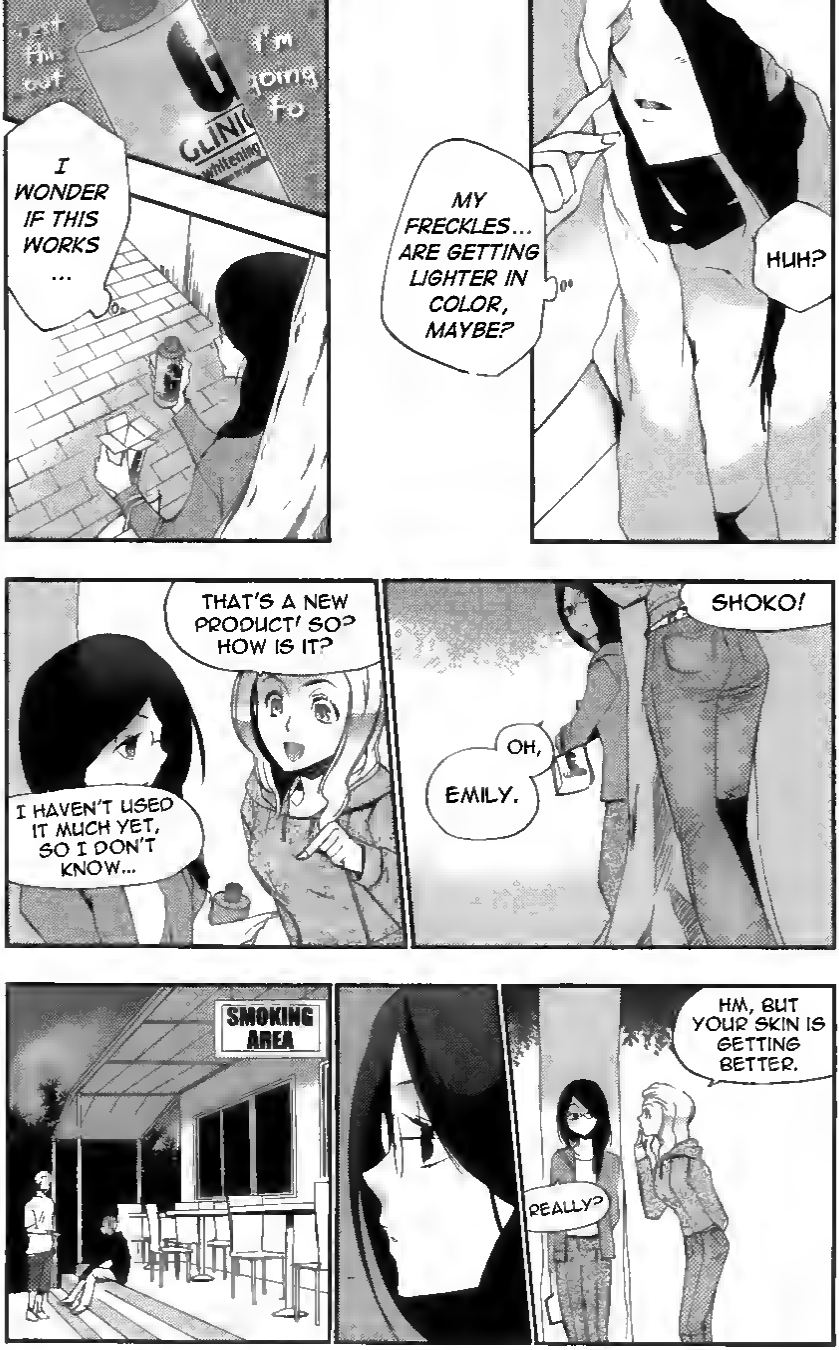
IT'S START-ING... TODAY
.....

GIRLS ARE THE SAME IN ANY COUNTRY.
THEY'RE ALL CUTE AND LOOK LIKE THEY'RE HAVING FUN.
THEY LAUGH LIKE FLOWERS,
AS IF THEY'RE LIVING IN A WORLD OF SPRING.

BUT I LOOK DOWN WHEN I WALK.
I KNOW NO ONE IS LOOKING AT ME,
I WONDER IF HE'S A COLLEGE STUDENT
ASIAN ... Japanese?
HE'S READ-ING A LETTER
AIR-MAIL ...
WHY AM I LIKE THIS...?
I HATE THAT I'M SO UGLY ...

THAT CAUGHT MY ATTENTION, A LITTLE BIT.
I WONDER WHY ...
DOESN'T LOOK HAPPY AT ALL ...
BUT HE ...
FROM HOME?



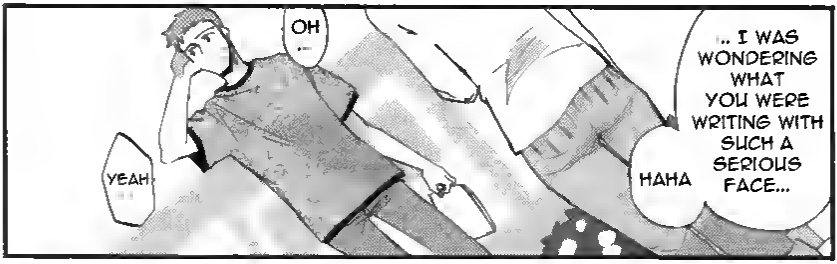

I WONDER IF THIS WORKS ...
MY FRECKLES... ARE GETTING LIGHTER IN COLOR, MAYBE?
HUH?
THAT'S A NEW PRODUCT, SO? HOW IS IT?
I HAVEN'T USED IT MUCH YET, SO I DON'T KNOW...
SHOKO!
OH, EMILY.
SMOKING AREA
HM, BUT YOUR SKIN IS GETTING BETTER.
REALLY?

I THOUGHT HIS FINGERS, HOLDING THE CIGARETTE, WERE LONG,
THERE AREN'T ANY NO-SMOKING AREAS IN JAPAN? AND YOU GET FINED FOR SMOKING ON THE STREET?
YEAH, PRETTY MUCH
WOW.
AND THAT MY HAIR HAD GROWN A LITTLE BIT.
BUT I THINK IT'LL EVENTUALLY BE PROHIBITED EVERYWHERE.
THE NEXT DAY, I IMPULSIVELY ...
STARTED CUTTING MY HAIR A LITTLE BIT.

I HATED MY HAIR.
STRAIGHT AND THICK AND UNMANAGEABLE,
I COULD ONLY TIE IT UP.
I HAD TO GROW IT OUT WHEN I WAS YOUNGER BECAUSE IT WOULD FLY ALL OVER THE PLACE WHEN IT WAS CUT SHORT,
BUT NOW IT'S NOT SO BAD.
MAYBE MY HAIR QUALITY'S CHANGED ...

scratch scratch
sigh
I WONDER IF HE'S RESPONDING ...
ぐしゃ。
ヒュッ!!

oops, Japanese
THAT'S MINE ...
IT'S A SCRI-BBLE ...
!


OH ...
YEAH
HAHA
.. I WAS WONDERING WHAT YOU WERE WRITING WITH SUCH A SERIOUS FACE...

THEN... AS A THANKS FOR PICKING IT UP,
AND TO KEEP YOU FROM TELLING ANYONE, CAN I TREAT YOU TO SOMETHING?

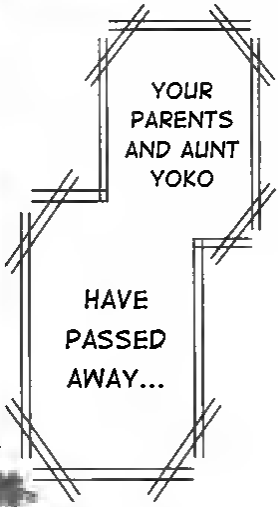
YOU CAN JUMP OVER IT, CAN'T YOU?
EVERYTHING I HATED DISAPPEARED INTO THE PAST CALLED WINTER
YOU OKAY?
AND I BECAME A RESIDENT IN THE SPRING WORLD.

...
YUP!
I COULD SMILE LIKE A FLOWER

I SEE NOW THAT THE GIRLS IN THE SPRING WORLD
WERE ALL IN LOVE
AND I HAD ENDED UP THERE SOMEHOW

OH,
I LEFT MY MOBILE IN MY ROOM AGAIN.
BY THE SHOE BOX AGAIN?
I'M GOING BACK TOO, I CAN GET IT FOR YOU.
...CLASS... HIRO IOKAWA
PLEASE COME TO THE CLOSEST STUDENT CENTER A.S A.P.
!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
THERE IS AN INTERNATIONAL PHONE CALL FOR YOU, PLEASE...
WAIT FOR ME ...
OKAY!
I DIDN'T KNOW AT THAT TIME...

SORRY, IT'S RUSHED...
I'LL COME BACK WHEN EVERY-THING IS SETTLED
OKAY
IN AN ACCID-ENT...
YOUR EIGHT-YEAR-OLD SISTER WAS SAFE.


YOUR PARENTS AND AUNT YOKO
HAVE PASSED AWAY...

I'LL BE WAIT-ING!

BUT DOESN'T SHE HAVE AN OLDER BROTHER
YOU'RE ALL ALONE NOW...

POOR THING...

BUT I THOUGHT HE WAS...
YES HE'S STUDYING ABROAD...
SSH!
TA TA...

IT'S NOT SOMETHING THAT SHOULD BE DISCUSSED NOW...
PAPA AND MAMA
AND AUNT YOKO ARE ALL GONE.
POOR THING...
POOR THING... YOU'RE ALL ALONE.

POOR THING...
POOR THING...

I WROTE MY BROTHER A LETTER THREE DAYS AGO.
WE USED TO ALWAYS WRITE IT TOGETHER...
IT DIDN'T GET SENT YET.
UM...
THAT LETTER...
POOR THING,
KAR-ADA-CHAN...
POOR THING...
ぐすっ

REPEATING IT WILL MAKE ME MORE SAD!
STOP SAYING "POOR THING" ...
たたたっ
!

POOR THING ...?
I CAN'T SEE THEM ANYMORE.
ちょこん
I'M SAFE, HERE!
PAPA
AND MAMA
AND AUNT YOKO...

BUT SAYING "BYE BYE" FOR-EVER...
SAYING "BYE BYE" IS SAD...
I DIDN'T KNOW THAT'S POSS-IBLE.
I CAN'T SEE THEM ANY-MORE.

ばっ!
そっ
IT'S LIKE HIDE AND SEEK.
NOT BETWEEN THE BLANKETS OR INSIDE THE CLOSET?
AL-WAYS HERE ...
HEY! KAR-ADA!!

YOU'VE MADE THE KITCHEN FULL OF SUDS AGAIN!
EAT YOUR VEGE-TABLES,
THEY'RE GOOD FOR YOU!
I ALREADY BOUGHT YOU SOME-THING!
WHENEVER I GOT SCOLDED,
たたた。
I WOULD CRY...

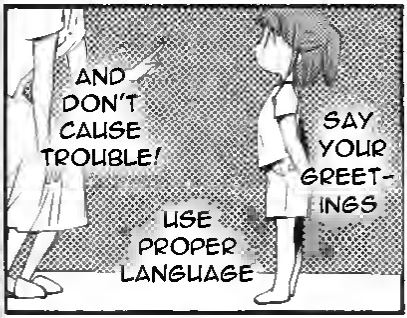
AND HIDE IN THE CURTAIN.
KAR-ADA...

I DON'T NEED IT ANYMORE.

...I KNOW.
I DON'T THINK HE'LL TAKE HER IN...
HE'S NOT HER REAL BROTHER.
SHH!! THAT'S SUPPOSED TO BE A SECRET!
BUT I'VE ALWAYS LOVED MY BROTHER...
IT'S ALSO IN THE UN-SENT LETTER.
I OVER-HEARD PAPA TALKING THE DAY BEFORE WE WROTE THE LETTER.
POOR THING...
ALL ALONE NOW...
POOR THING...
I WONDER IF HE'LL COME.
"I CAN'T WAIT TO MEET YOU"...

I HAVE TO BE A GOOD GIRL...
IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'M GOING TO MEET HIM SO I HAVE TO GREET HIM PROPERLY
きょろ.

EXCUSE ME. I JUST ARRIVED HERE.
HIRO-KUN! ...IT MUST HAVE BEEN TOUGH.
UM...


AND- DON'T CAUSE TROUBLE!
SAY YOUR GREET-INGS
USE PROPER LANGUAGE

I GOT IT!
OK!
"I UNDER-STAND," RIGHT?

WHERE'S MY SISTER ...?

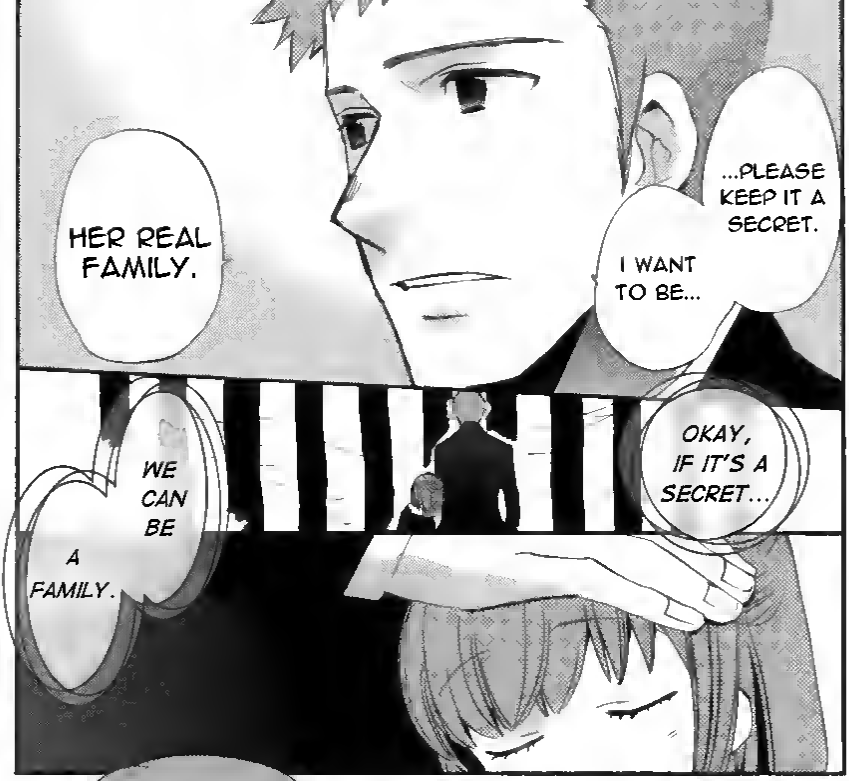
IT'S "HIRO-ONII CHAN"...
UH...

I'M OKAY...
YES...
ARE YOU OKAY?
IN A LOUD VOICE...

I AM IOKAWA KARADA...
ONIICHAN.
NICE TO MEET YOU.

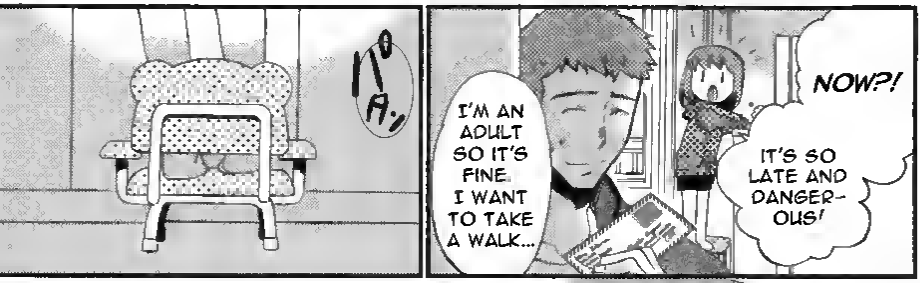
SINCE YOU WERE GONE, HIRO-KUN..
WE TOOK OVER EVERY-THING...
IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE MY RESPONS-IBILITY.
.....
...NO, I'M GRATEFUL. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
...UM,
CAN I ASK SOME-THING?

THIS GIRL... DOES SHE KNOW ABOUT OUR RELATION-SHIP...THAT...
OH, NO, HE HASN'T BEEN TOLD ABOUT IT YET.
I SEE ...
I KNOW ...
I KNOW, BUT ...

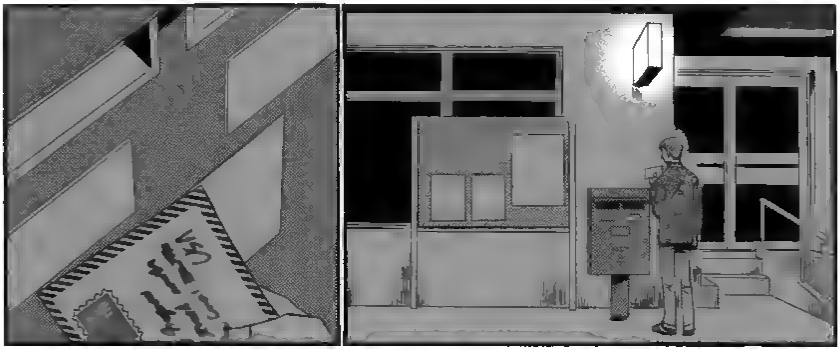

HER REAL FAMILY.
I WANT TO BE...
...PLEASE KEEP IT A SECRET.
OKAY, IF IT'S A SECRET...
WE CAN BE A FAMILY.

KARADA-SAN,
YES?
HOW IS YOUR NEW SCHOOL?

OH, I'M GOING TO GO OUT...
I HAVE TO MAIL THIS
GOOD!
I AM VERY CLOSE WITH AMINO-KUN!!
I MADE A FRIEND!


I'M A...!
I'M AN ADULT SO IT'S FINE. I WANT TO TAKE A WALK...
NOW?!
IT'S SO LATE AND DANGER-OUS!

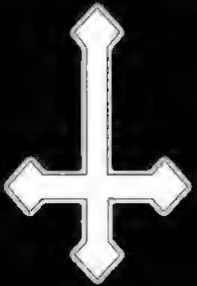
A LETTER ...



カチ…
SORRY, SHOKO.
I CAN'T…
RETURN.

ARIENAI!
TLER: SHIROKURO
EDITING: NIHIL SINE NEFAS
RAWS: MAGRANA

JOIN US ON IRC AT #ARIENAI! ON IRCHIGHWAY.



THIS CHAPTER
CLEANED & TYPESET BY:

nihil sine nefas

NOTHING WITHOUT SIN

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